

THE  
*Lucky Idiot :*  
OR,  
*Fools have Fortune.*

Verified in the LIFE of  
*D. Pedro de Cenudo,*

Whose Follies had generally a prosperous Event:  
But when he pretended to be Wise was usually Unfortunate.

Improv'd with Variety of Moral Remarks, and  
Diverting Amusements.

Written in Spanish  
By *Don Quevedo de Alcala.*

Now Rendred into Modern English  
By a Person of Quality.

Illustrated with Pictures.

*Omne tulit Punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci :  
Ridentem dicere verum, Quis vetat.*



LONDON:

Printed for Nath. Crouch, at the *Bell*, against Grocers-Alley, in the Poultry, near Cheapside, 1710.

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# TO THE READER.

I have some kind of Assurance that this Piece of Innocent Wit and Mirth will not be unacceptable to the World, since it is Illustrated with several Moral Reflections, notable Remarks, and diverting Amusements; wherein the Author (who was much esteem'd in his own Countrey for the many large Volumes of Learning which he Published,) takes occasion Satyrically to inveigh against several ill Customs and Vices of the Age; carefully avoiding all prophane and Lascivious Expressions, a Crime too Familiar with our Modern Writers in this kind. He acquaints his Readers he is fully satisfied, that Ignorant and Impid People upon the first View of the Title-page of his Discourse will lay it aside with all the Carelesness and Neglect imaginable, as they should say, what's all this to us? Not considering, that by this slight they discover themselves to be more concern'd in it, than they would have it thought they are; And he wishes that every Fool would be sensible of the obligation he is under to the Author for drawing his Picture, how short soever it is of the original; For it would puzzle a Wise Man

## To the Reader.

to collect all the Follies, that a silly Wretch  
able to commit. This Treatise seems to be a Pa-  
radox, the Praise of Folly having been at-  
tempted in that kind, by the Learned Eras-  
mus; and Other Authors have writ Encom-  
iums on the Gout, the Venereal Disease, &c.  
As if they intended to laugh Men out of the  
Vices and Immoralities by this way of treat-  
ing those Subjects. And certainly some Follies  
may be avoided, if Men would seriously  
attend to the Design of our Spaniard in  
Fancy; which will then have its desir'd suc-  
cess: For as the Poet says,

—Ridentem dicere Verum, Quis vetat

Why main't the Truth be spoke,  
Though only in a Joke.

There is a Proverb, that Spanish Wit  
Spanish Bread are equally scarce, and ex-  
cellent in their kind; and 'tis manifest, that  
fewer Books are Printed in that Tongue, than  
in many other European Languages; and  
those which are Publish'd, have an uncom-  
mon Strain of Wit and Ingenuity in them.  
Don Quevedo's Visions, Don Quixot, Gil-  
man, Lazarillo, &c. Neither is this  
Piece without its peculiar turn of Thought  
and may therefore claim a Share of the ap-  
probation of the English Reader.

J. L. posterity,

# The Lucky Idiot:

O R,

Fools have Fortune:

Verified in the Life of D. Pedro Cennudo, the Foolish Spaniard.

## CH A P. II.

*He Gives an Account of his Parentage, Birth and Education.*

**T**O the Mothers of the Whole Race of Fools, Greeting, and your Attention I humbly beseech you; if I may without Vanity bespeak so Great and so Illustrious an Audience; Bless your selves in your Renowned Issue, a Generation of People fully satisfied in themselves, and whose Posterity, as the Fruit of their Ignorance, shall

shall bring Honour to their Progenitors  
 Suffer your selves to be undeceived, for  
 you will find that in all Places and Ages  
 he, that Ennobleth and Enricheth a Family,  
 is a Foolish Son ; Fortune indulging  
 their Imperfections, and befriending the  
 Miscarriages, to manifest her Power  
 bestowing her Favours upon those that are  
 most unworthy of them : And doubtless  
 you cannot be insensible of the Truth  
 this Maxim, who have brought into the  
 World so great a number of Blockheads  
 To confirm your Opinion in this Matter  
 instead of Multiplying Arguments, I  
 shall Fortify the same by relating the true  
 History of an Idiot in our times : which  
 may have the better relish with the Intelligent  
 Reader, because it shall be presented  
 to him in his own Words, without Reflections  
 or Observations.

Know then, my Dear Friends, that I  
 was conceived in Original Folly ; and can truly  
 say, I was a Fool on all sides. My Father  
 was a Man well born, had taken his  
 Degree of Batchelor of Arts at *Alc* and  
 was in a promising way of gaining the  
 most Honourable Employment : He was  
 in Love with my Mother, being a Young  
 Woman of good Extraction, and likewise  
 a Fool by Complexion. This good Father



of mine being wounded with the Darts of her Killing Eyes, was desperately enamoured of her, and therefore resolved if possible to enjoy her; to which end he used the common Bait of promising her Marriage, with all the solemn Protections that Lovers commonly make upon such Occasions; She, Poor Soul, being deluded by his Vows, and Oaths, consented he should use her at his Pleasure, and let him lye at Rack and Manger: But being soon cloyed with her Charms he would have deserted her, had she not appeal'd to the Magistrate, who obliged him to Marry her, when her Honour was even at the last Gasps, being very big with Child, and so compelled him (as the Proverb says) after he had defiled his Hat to put it on his Head.

From this Folly of theirs I was born, at a time when the Council of the *Indies* nominated my Father to go to a Government on the other World, which was like burying him in this. Now I being newly born, and considered, that the Embarking me with him would endanger my Life, and therefore concluded to leave me in charge with a Brother of his, then Curate of *O-Youon*, a Village Three Leagues from *Madrid*,



*drid*; and taking his Wife along with him proceeded on his Voyage to *America*.

I was then put out to suck the Breast of a jolly Woman, a Farmer's Wife *Odon*, who was rude and unpolish'd both in her Behaviour and Discourse: Here you may already perceive that I begin to make some Apology for my Education; but what could I learn from a Woman of that Quality? She gave me in her Milk the Quintessence of Garlick, Onions, and black Wine, which was her daily Sustainance so that you may observe I was Rustic both in Body and Soul: But as Fortune many times takes care of those who are forsaken by the World, I grew Strong and Robust with this homely Food: However I retained the Physiognomy of my Nurse, having a brown Skin, and a surly Frown which probably happened by the ill Look she always put on, when she fed me; so that Power has Imagination over us from the time we are conversant with, since the Dread of her Severity did so possess me, that I continually ruminating thereupon, it appeared upon my Face; my Head being likewise disturbed by her hideous Scolding, and my Patience confounded by continual Vexations.

Being arrived to Seven Years of Age, my Uncle thought it was time for me to learn to Write and Read, in which I was instructed in the Company of another Nephew of his of the same Age, who lived with him : My Countenance indicated me to have a contumacious and rebellious Wir, with a kind of stubborn Reservedness ; so that in the Town they usually, courteously term'd me, *The Frowner*, instead of calling me Fool. My Uncle was of a rough Temper, but had a plodding Head, so that though at every turn he whip'd my School-fellow for neglecting his Task, yet he seldom corrected me, reckoning me a Fool, and that therefore my dulness was to be excused, but not the other, who was a brisk Lad, and ready witted. From this time forward my Folly was very beneficial to me, since it saved me from many a whipping, and I lost nothing in the Conclusion, for I learn'd as much as my Fellow, who though he had more Capacity, yet was not inclin'd to Learning.

## C H A P. II.

*The Follies he committed, while he continued with the Curate, his Uncle.*

**M**Y Uncles Living was worth his Eight Hundred Ducats, or Two Hundred Pound a Year, yet was he wretchedly covetous, that he would keep no Servant, but made us his Drudges to answer all his Occasions. He often employed me to fetch him Wine, but having a liquorish Tooth, I was always his Taster, and supplied the Deficiency with Water out of the River; and he finding it small was much concern'd, saying, *The Cenudo* is so great a Fool, that the Vintner puts any thing upon him; he would therefore trust me no more upon such Errands. My Comrade gladly undertook my Office, and being naturally addicted to play lov'd to be gadding abroad. However that I might not be idle, my Uncle ordered me to take care of the Bells, and ring them upon all Occasions, a thing which I judged very troublesome, and which would be almost impossible for me to perform, if my Folly did not help me out. This Office the good Curate contrived

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me to save the Charge of a Sexton ; but my Head was not steady enough to run up and down the turning Stairs of the Steeple so many times a day, nor to endure the Noise of the Bells ; for having suck'd in so much Onions and Garlick with my Milk, my *Pericranium* was in a perpetual Giddiness.



I remember once that in the dead time of the Night there came a Countrey-Fellow to my Uncle in great haste, intreating him to give order for knocking the Bells, his Wife being in Labour (a thing usual in *Spain*.) My good Curate then waked



waked me out of a Sound Sleep, saying Rise *Pedro* instantly, and ring the Bell for Child-birth quickly, quickly; I got up immediately, and as Fools have good Memories, I retained the Words quickly, quickly, and knock'd the Bells so nimble that the Inhabitants of the Town readily believ'd it had been for Fire: At the alarm, they all got out of their Beds, running from their Houses, some with Pitchers, others with Kettles and Buckets, and some with Water-Engines straight to the Church, and asked me where, where I replied, in such a Man's House, thinking they had inquired where the Woman's Travel was, and the Curate being already fallen asleep I had no body to inform me of my Mistake.

The Neighbours, who were got together in great Numbers; hastened to the House, and seeing a great deal of Smoke coming out of the Chimney, for they had kindled the Child-bed Fire with Straw which is often poor peoples Fuel, they all concluded the House was on Fire, and play'd their Engines upon it, pouring their Pitchers and Kettles into the Chimney, and untiling the Roof to quench it. Others fell to breaking open the Door with a terrible clattering, and hearing the

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Woman crying out in her Child birth Pains, they carried her out of her Bed in their Arms into the Street, no Intreaties nor Arguments being able to prevent it. When they came near to see where the Fire was, such Abundance of Rubbish had fallen upon it, that they thought the Poor Woman owed the saving her Life to their Diligence, who was deliver'd before all the People in the middle of the Street, among a Multitude of Lights, so that there were Witnesses enough to prove the Child was truly born of its Mother, and not surreptitious: The Relation, which the Husband gave, was not sufficient to perswade the People that the Bells were not rung for the Quenching a Fire, but for Child-birth; and though he swore it an Hundred times, yet they would not believe him. So common it is, that more Credit is given to a lying Rascal than to an honest Man: I was sorry the Fault was not laid at my Door, for I was weary of my Place: My Uncle suspected the matter, but dissembled it at present, because he would not anger the Parties agrieved, yet resolved within himself to discharge me from my Office in a short time.

A while after dyed one of the principal Men of the Parish, a Gentleman of a good Family;

Family; but a Person that would make  
 Fool of himself, and would go out upon  
 a Holiday; when he was a little Elevated  
 with Wine, and dance to a Pipe and a Ta-  
 bour with the Young Men and Women in  
 the Town in a ridiculous manner. My  
 Uncle hearing he was dead came with all  
 speed to me, saying, Go *Pedro*, go rise  
 for the Dead without Lazyness merrily  
 merrily. He thought I understood his  
 meaning, and that a Word was enough  
 me; I went to the Belfry incontinent  
 resolving to obey him exactly; rumination  
 in my Mind, why he should bid me rise  
 for the Dead merrily; what thought I  
 my self, surely the Physician, or else the  
 Lawyer of our Town is dead, that my  
 Uncle has a Desire I should celebrate  
 with so much Mirth; and began to con-  
 sider, that the Merriest Tune I knew was  
 that which was played upon the Tabour  
 and so I knock'd Two of the Bells with  
 both my Hands so much to the Life, and  
 with such an Air, that many People  
 swore to me afterwards they could not  
 forbear Dancing to hear it.

The Relations of the dead Man imagin-  
 ing that I affronted him, because of his  
 former Frolicks, came with their Hal-  
 Pikes and Lances toward the Belfry, cry-

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herein they skirmish in *Spain*, with Dag-  
els, Lances, and other Weapons in their  
hands, dancing all the time ; I then struck  
the Bells more nimbly, and pleased my  
self with the Sound : But they redoubling  
their Bawling, I held still a while for cu-  
riosity,



riosity, and heard them say to ~~me~~, *The Villain, who bid thee ring after this manner?* I supposing, they had admired Musick, replyed, My Uncle ordered to do it: Scarce had I prononnced the Words, when they ran in all hast to House; by which time he came puffing and blowing, with his Gown tuck'd at his Girdle to the Church, sweating he drop'd, and roaring out, *what dost thou do, Fool and Beast that thou art?* Perceiving he was angry, I left off knocking Bells, and he cryed, *come down, thou Braggart, come down, thou wilt undo me:* I came down accordingly, and found my good Curfew surrounded with these Executioners, making a great Noise; I regarded what they said, only heard my Uncle cry, *He'll tell you, let him tell;* they all replyed he had told them already, it was done by his Order, and drawing nearer to him, my Uncle cryed, *Come hither, you Son of a Whore, did I bid thee beat that Tune?* (My Boxes of other could have said no more to me) when Gambrinus said I, did not you bid me ring merrier than that and what Tune can you have merrier than that; hereupon they all fell a laughing and went away, satisfied that it was my Folly which occasioned it: Who would not have thought that this Fool



Business should have been my undoing, yet it was quite contrary, since it eased me of my Trouble; for my Uncles Anger being appeased, supposing I did it out of Ignorance, he never corrected me for the Blunder, but to prevent his being brought into such another Premunire, he deprived me of my Sexton's Place, and gave it to my Companion.

He had some Suspicion that my Cozen was a great Lover of his Belly, and in regard he had more Kindness for him than me, he employed him to take care of the Larder; now the Curate being wretchedly saving, he thought it proper, we should change Places; he therefore made me Overseer of his Provisions, and gave me the Key of the Room, wherein he lock'd up all his Dainties: You see here, that I am Master of what I greedily desired, by my Folly. He delivered all to me by Account, as Cheeses, Honey, Pom-Citrons, Boxes of Quince Marmalade, Two Dozen Gamons of Bacon, and an hundred other Rarities presented him by the Nuns: Of all these I took a little daily; but doubting that I should be discovered one time or other, and discharged from this delightful Employment, and that he would with more ado turn me into the Quire to sing,



ing, I thought upon this Stratagem, thing hon  
I would periwade him we were extreade, an  
ly haunted with Mice ; and with was the A  
Thoughts of this Politick Device I tem'd w  
boldly upon the Cheefe, Biscakes as no gre  
Sweet-meats, and eat as much as I haour Sauce  
Mind to ; but having a great Passion ofts them  
the Gammons of Bacon, I was afraid that this w  
Mice would not excuse me for meddling the C  
with them, who usually eat little of the Callin  
because they are hindred by the Swordome in Su

Now my Uncle going in daily to c  
serve the Condition his Provisions were  
I took an Occasion to tell him ; certain  
Sir, there is no enduring the Neighbour  
hood of these Mice, for I always find th  
have devoured something or other ; if y  
think convenient, we will put in a C  
who will soon spoil their thieving Tra  
This Advice pleased my Uncle wondro related  
well, who was enraged at the Robbenppier, v  
of these Vermine, and so made an Honed my  
in the Door for her to go in, though I desires no  
the Cat that did all the Dammage, joys, he  
took what I pleased of the Saffages hearts. Del  
Gammons, and while the other Serva to Read  
were at Mass, and a little Old Woman some c  
had was gone to Market for Meat, I fields, wh  
all for my Supper, and drove the hungry, The  
Spirit out of my Guts. The Curate upon the  
m

thing home took notice what Ravage was made, and instantly concluded the Cat was the Author of all the Mischief, yet I seem'd well enough contented, saying, 'tis no great matter, these filthy Mice have spoil'd our Sauce with their Sweet Meat, for it costs them their Lives to fill their Bellies. I did not think this was his Mistake, since I always kept the Cat-hole shut, for being both of the Calling, I was unwilling she should come in Snacks with me.

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C H A P. III.

*He Robs his Uncle of Four Hundred Crowns, and goes to Madrid.*

Sixteen Years I spent in the Life I have related, not knowing there was any other way to live, which yet ought not to be recommended my Misfortune; for while a Man desires no more than what he at present enjoys, he may truly be said to have his heart's Desire: I always had an Inclination to Reading of Books, and often carried some of my Uncles with me into the fields, where I perused them, particularly The History of *Gusman* the Rogue, *Don Quixote* the Squire, *Lazarillo*, and other Histories

Histories of this kind, wherewith I enticed lea-  
tained my self pleasantly in Summer de. Up-  
der the Shade of the flourishing Tree, de-  
and in Winter sitting in the Sun. and never

It happened at the time of one of these, the  
Great Festivals, that a Gentleman of Quality  
was committed Prisoner to the Castle of  
of *odon* for a Quarrel which he had with  
a Nobleman belonging to the Court; therewith  
Gentleman undertook to treat the Inhabitants  
bitants of the Town with an Entertainment  
ment at his own Charge, and to thank'd him  
sent for a Company of Stage-Players from  
*Madrid*, who represented an Excellent Comedy  
Comedy with Variety of Wit and Laughter  
mour, being withal very Rich in Costly  
and the Ornaments of the Stage; I, who  
had never seen nor heard any thing like  
was wonderfully surprized with Admiration  
tion, and followed the Players without  
Mouth, as if I expected their Graces  
should have entred into me. They acted  
several Comedies in the Castle to the  
the Gentleman, at which I was never  
sent, and was so attentive, that I lost  
one Sentence which I could carry away  
my Memory. After they had continued  
there Three Days, I perceived they were  
Preparations to be gone, and had a great  
of Coaches at the Gate, having already Two

entaken leave of the Governour of the Ca-  
erte. Upon this mournful Sight I was al-  
Trost deprived of my Senses, wishing I  
id never seen them, for it seemed impos-  
of ble, that I should live in their deplora-  
f Qe Absence; and so much did this earnest  
Caesire work upon me, that it overcame  
d my Natural Cowardise and Restraint,  
t; herewith I had hitherto been to my Shame  
e Inpt in awe.

ert I came to one of the Comedians, and  
hat k'd him civilly whether they were go-  
rs fig; he told me to *Madrid*; and do you  
xcell there as often as you have done here?  
nd laughing replied, there, Friend, why  
Cle act there Two Comedies every day,  
I, and sometimes half a Dozen, in Gentle-  
g likens Houses. I understood already that  
Ad *Madrid* was the Principal City in *Spain*,  
th of I knew not wherefore it was so, or  
Great made it the Metropolis of the King-  
ey am; for I never had been out of the  
o down of *Oden*, nor ever desired my Uncle  
ever let me go abroad; but when I heard  
I lost what was done in *Madride* every Day, and  
awa it was not many Miles off, I thought  
ontin self to be very near Heaven, and cur-  
ney my Fortune, that had for Sixteen Years  
a covred me of seeing a Place where there  
g alre Two Comedies a day, and many



times half a Dozen in particular Hours to the  
 I then resolved to say to Death, when City kept  
 came with his Writ of Execution to Poor Ro  
 away my Life, that there wanted yet say as the  
 teen Years, because those, which m them: I  
 be imputed to me all the time I dwell Grand T  
*Odon* was not to live, nor any thing like nen; Fr  
 It is not possible, said I, for any Man to keeps th  
 among the Barbarians in this Town, er com  
 have not Two Comedies every day, etter, r  
 many times Six in Noblemens Hou uth them  
 This I ruminated every Moment in ay conv  
 Imagination. he Grea

It happened afterwards, that during When I u  
 Confinement of that Gentleman in erting C  
 Castle, there came Two Men with ate and  
 Ladies of Courtly Behaviour and ple and that th  
 Conversation to make him a Visit; I ut the tr  
 up and down amongst them, being e Expen  
 come all Eyes, and thinking my self holly rav  
 new World; I soon became acquaint ese Enjoy  
 with a strait Limb'd Page about my er with th  
 Years, having an earnest Desire to But being  
 my self of all Affairs; He told me, ia withou  
 those with whom his Master past awa d to all ma  
 Tedioufness, of his Imprisonment ies and In  
 Men of Sense, who compos'd Verses, put my l  
 such Comedies as had been acted at er with al  
 I asked him if the Ladies came from y Father  
*drid*, he said yes; I added innocently, in the I



to the Cavaliers and Gentlemen of that City keep several Women; aye, and the Poor Rogues too, said he, maintain as many as their Industry and Money will allow them: I told him, I had read that the Grand Turk had great Numbers of Women; Friend said he, the Grand Signior keeps them as his Wives, but these never commit Matrimony; so much the better, reply'd I, for this way of Living with them pleases my Gusto, and a Man may converse as pleasantly with them as the Great Turk does with his Ladies. When I understood, that there were diverting Comedies, ingenious Men, delicate and Beautiful Women at *Madrid*, and that they would be complaisant without the trouble of Marriage, only with the Expence of a little Money, I was wholly ravish'd with the Thoughts of all these Enjoyments, and resolv'd to go thither with the first Opportunity.

But being sensible that if I went to *Madrid* without Money, I should be expos'd to all manner of Inconveniencies, Miseries and Insults, I began to contrive how to put my self in a Condition to go thither with all necessary Accommodations. My Father sent every Year by the Fleet from the *Indies*, about Four Hundred  
B Crowns

Crowns to the Curate my Uncle to pay for the Charge of my Education, and maintain me in the University of *Salamanca*, in studying the Civil Law, a thing which he in several Letters recommending me to my Uncle; who usually returned an Answer, that tho' I was still a Fool, yet he hoped in a little time to teach me more Discretion, that I might not be scorned and derided by my Fellow-Students. About this time the Fleet and the Four Hundred Crowns arriving, I thought it was a great Pity that he should be paid with such Liberality, who bred me up with so much Misery; and as a Strong Inclination always finds Arguments to strengthen it, I judg'd it to be but a case of Restitution to take from him that which came upon my Account; and I find it may be necessary in order to be a Thief, that one should thought to be a Fool.

My Uncle laid his Breeches, where he kept the Key of his Treasure, under his Pillow every Night, so that it was impracticable to open his Cabinet without manifest Peril: I therefore found out the Contrivance; about Two a Clock in the Morning it being very dark, I rise without Noise, and opened the Street Door, and all the rest to that where the Curate

was, and returning to my Bed, I began to roar out aloud, Uncle, Sir, Uncle, Thieves, Thieves; he waking and hearing me bawl, instantly jumps into the floor, and taking his Sword which lay always on his Bed-Tester, in a great Consternation ask'd, where dost thou hear the Rogues? Where are they?

At the Street-Door they make a Noise, Haid I; with this he hastens to the street-door, which was at some distance, bidding me rise and light a Candle; all this while my Cozen was asleep; and in the mean time I search'd my Uncles Pockets, took out the Key of the Cabinet where the Four Hundred Crowns were newly deposited, and finding them in a Purse, I left the Cabinet open; then although I found the Candle I made no haste to light it, till I had first secur'd my Purse, the Joy of my Life, and my only Comfort.

The Curate finding the Doors open, went first to shutting that next the Street, locking it, and putting the Key in his pocket, imagining the Thief was within, that not being able to get out, he would catch him with the Plunder in his hands; he then cryed out, Boy bring him the Light; I came down with the

Candle, and found him with his back against the Door in a fighting Posture, cutting and slashing the Air, and calling out to you sacrilegious Rogues, what rob the Curate, one of Heaven's Ambassadors, what steal from the Church, you impious Miscreants; sure the Church must be in great Danger: when the Light was brought. Come *Pedro*, said he, follow me, and let us search every Room strictly; we did so, and went locking them all up till we came to where the Robbery had been done; when he saw the Cabinet open he was like a Man who has fallen into a Swoond, and was all over in a cold Sweat, as if they had taken away his Blood; and no wonder, for Money is the Blood of Life, without which no Man is able to breath. At length, after covering a little, well said he, 'tis done, and all over, we are come too late; they are going nearer, and finding the Purse was missing, he cryed out aloud, all's gone; Thieves have made their Escape, and that was the Noise thou heardst at the Door. Let us go to the Justice of Peace, make Affidavit of what I have lost; now I think on't, do thou stay at home and lock the Door on the inside, for it should be the Devil, and he should come for more, for who else would be



wicked to rob a Priest. He then brought the Justice, who took an Account of the Matter as is usual in such cases, and then departed.

I let some days pass over before I took leave of my Uncle's House ; but one pleasant Morning I resolved to depart, and from the Chearfulness thereof judged it was an happy Omen of my future Success ; so placing my Purse of Ducats on my left side near my Heart, I travelled toward *Madrid*, imagining that my happy Stars had directed me to this new way of living ; the greatest trouble I then had was, that my Sirname of *Hernandez*, which I inherited of my Parents, and that of *Pedro* before it, sounded like a merry *Andrew* on a Stage ; but remembering that I was more indebted to my Frown than to my Father, since I had thereby enjoyed such a quiet Life, I thereupon resolved to call my self for the future *Pedro Cenudo*, or the *Frowner*.

## C H A P. IV.

*At Madrid he enters himself into the  
Service of an Aragonian Gentleman.  
He relates the Follies he was guilty  
of in that Station.*

**I**N a short time I arrived at *Madrid* and went directly up to the Market place, where seeing a Number of People stand together, I ask'd what they were; they told me they were *Alguazils* and *Servantes* (or Bailiffs and Attorneys.) This griev'd me already to think I was come to a place where there was so much Justice: Since that I am said I, we could never live quietly in our Town, only for having a Lawyer amongst us, how shall I endure this Place where there are so many? A little farther I met the Page with whom I was acquainted at *Odon*, he said he was glad to see me; I told him I had some difference with the Curate, and was come from him with a design to live at Court; thou comest in a lucky Hour, replied he, for a Gentleman lately desir'd me to send him out a Page, and if thou accept'st of it, thou wilt live very happily. I considered of his Proposal, and approved of it; for though I brought a good Sum

- Money

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Money with me, yet that would soon be wasted if I should spend upon the main Stock, which I thought it was best to preserve till a time of Necessity, and to help me out at a dead Lift.

Hereupon I desired him to carry me to a Salesmans, where I bought a Suit and Cloak of black Serge; and at a Semstresses I furnish'd my self with starch'd Ruffs, and Cuffs; being thus Equip'd I thought my self more gentile than *Narcissus*, for he never wore starch'd Ruffs; I now began to percieve that Money was the most powerful thing in the World, and that it supplied all the Defects of Nature; since if a Man be as Rustick, and unpolish'd as if he had convers'd only with the Beasts of the Field all his Life, yet by Virtue of this great Prince he becomes a Beau, and is counted wise, and every way an accomplish'd Person. He then brought me to be seen of my Master, who was an *Aragonian* Gentleman, tall, and in Years, and likewise short-sighted. He had married a Young Lady about Sixteen, and came to Court in hope to get an Employment. Now to qualify himself the better, he took care to have a great number of Servants, and that they should all have good Liveries and seeing me well

clad, and as severe in my Countenance as a Judge, this Lad, says he, promise well; whence art thou? a Native of *Madrid*, said I; thou art no Fool then added he, as if there were no Fools born in the City: He would have treated with me about my Sallery, but I not well understanding what to demand, answered, Trouble not your self, worthy Sir, about that for I think my self sufficiently happy having the Honour to be intituled to your Service. Observe here, my Ignorance was profitable to me, for the good Gentleman was so pleas'd with my Courtesy that he took an Affection to me, and furnish'd me liberally with whatever I had occasion for; whereas if I had made positive Bargain with him I should have received only my bare Sallery as the *King* did, who had not enough to buy themselves Shoes and Stockins. New Cloaths and this Encouragement heightned my dull Spirits, and I began to admire myself, I went to kiss my Mistress's Hand and found she liked me as well as her Handband. She ask'd me some Questions, which I briefly and timorously answered, deriving by my blushing the Innocency and Modesty of my Nature.

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My Master being a Pretendient, or one that solicited for an Office at Court, was not much at home, which I did not like, for when he went abroad he would never suffer either Page or Lacquey to stay behind, thinking he should diminish his Nobility if we did not all follow him. From that time I began to Philosophize, and to consider what worldly Honour was, and that the Ostentation of being attended with little slovenly Lacqueys and Pages was the only way to obtain Credit and Reputation among Grandees. We went sometimes all day long following his Horse, which made me say to my self, whether dost thou go? Thou followest a Beast, and for certain thou wilt never come to good. At other times my Pretendient went out in his Coach, and though there was room enough for us Four behind it, yet he would never allow thereof, but obliged us to walk on foot bareheaded round the same, with our Green Liveries like Foot-Boys of the Pageant Giants which are carried in Procession; neither could I take my Rest in the Night, being employed the greatest part of it in carrying Letters and Messages to one Nobleman or other; a thing that my Humour could never comply

34 *The Lucky Idiot: Or,*

with, to stand waiting at Peoples-Doors and kneeling to a Nobleman when I delivered him a Letter, according to the Custom of this Countrey, while he no regarding me, and turning his Head another way, I was compelled to continue in that Posture of Devotion till I was ready to curse him.

Such was my ill Fortune all the time I was reckoned to be wise, and it was certainly a Trick put upon me by the Enemy of Mankind, to persuade me to pretend to be so. For my Master having a low opinion of my Prudence sent me upon a Messenger, so that I had not a Moment Rest; I therefore resolved to turn Fool again, and was then as fortunate as before; and I made my self appear in the following manner. One Night it being very late, and I very weary, as I usually was, my Master had writ a Letter to be sent by the Post, but being called to Supper he said to me, seal this Letter, and carry it to the Post of *Aragon*, for it is of great consequence to me: He went to Supper, and I staid reading the Letter which seemed to me to be of Love; for after many tender Expressions, he sent to acquaint a Woman, that by all means she should come to see him, for by reason of

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his urgent Occasions he could not go from home. In the Margin he put the Name of the Person to whom he writ, as he used to do, and told me I should add the Supercription, supposing I would perceive it was for a Sister of his by the Name which he had left written. Not far from our House dwel'd a Lady of Pleasure, who admitted of Visits from any Gentleman, and subsisted upon what was given her by those who had a Passion for her; to be plain, she was an impudent Hackney Jade, and an *Aragonian*, being nicknamed, the Post of *Aragon*: I imagining it was a Love-Letter, and remembering I was to carry it to the Post of *Aragon*, did not doubt but it was for her, whereupon I seal'd it, but put no Supercription thereon, as judging it very indecent, since it was an amorous Billet. I carried it to the Post, who ask'd me from whence it came, I told her from a Gentleman of *Aragon*, who had set his Name to it. She opened it with a Smile, and read thus;

“ My Dear, to make me most happy, there needs no more than that thou wilt procure it by coming to see me; the way is short, and I could heartily wish that I were free from Business, for then

' I assure thee I would visit thee ever Post, for  
 ' day; there shall be nothing wanting Beards,  
 ' oblige thee, when I shall have the Pleas an Hunc  
 ' sure to see thee at my House; which understa  
 ' hope will not be long, and shall the said I, th  
 ' give thee an account of Affairs of greing Room  
 ' Moment. Heaven preserve thee, &c. her wait

She was extreemly pleased with the dressing  
 kind Expressions in this Paper, and being from you  
 very willing to comply with my Request. The O  
 ask'd me if this might be a proper Opself, and  
 portunity; I told her yes, because mfinds the  
 Master had a desire she should come with spar  
 that Instant. She made me sit down, antenance,  
 calling her Servant, who was a Tawning the L  
 Moor, went into her Apartment, anpriz'd at  
 rigg'd her self with a pair of Embrothere was  
 der'd Stays, and a Mantle with Goluch a kin  
 Flowers, and taking her Maid by thulways co  
 Hand, with her Face veil'd, only Onhonour t  
 Eye being visible, according to the custonions; th  
 of this Countrey, we came to my Mavould hav  
 ster's House. I went in first to give him my Se  
 notice, and finding him at Supper withegan no  
 his Wife, I whisper'd him in the Earowever h  
 saying, Sir, the Post of *Aragon* is comejoiced a  
 what dost thou mean, cried he; whenture.  
 Sir said I, I have brought her hither, My Mi  
 handsom brisk Girl: The Old Gentlemancrecy w  
 was ignorant that there was so pleasing and at Ta



Post, for he thought all Posts had wore Beards, and understood me not, asking an Hundred Questions; neither could I understand him; at length, come Sir, said I, the Lady expects you in the Drawing Room, and 'tis ungentleel to make her wait so long; she was less time in dressing her self, than you are in rising from your Chair.

The Old Spark gets up, crossing himself, and coming down into the Room, finds the Post there, a likely young Girl, with sparkling Eyes, and a smiling Countenance, who making a Curtsey and holding the Letter in her Hand, he was surpriz'd at the Novelty. Sir, said she, there was no Occasion for you to send such a kind Paper to me, whom you may always command, and who thinks it an Honour to comply with your Inclinations; the least Message in the World would have obliged me to come and offer him my Service to you; the Old Letcher began now to apprehend the Mistake; but however he thought it a lucky Error, and rejoiced at his good Fortune in this Adventure.

My Mistress, who had observed the secrecy wherewith I delivered my Errand at Table, and that her Husband had risen

risen with some Concern upon hearing what  
 was somewhat suspicious, and sent her  
 Waiting Woman to pry into the Affair  
 who returning related both what she did  
 and what she did not see: My Master  
 says she, has got a Mistress, and Peaches  
 is his Pimp; she is the bravest Wench in  
 the whole Town; upon my Modesty  
 is not so liberal to you as he is to her  
 what a curious Golden Mantle, and a Silver  
 Wasccoat has this old Dotard pre-  
 sented her with! the decrepid Wretch  
 seems young again: This you deserve  
 for your Squemishness; but I hope you  
 will be more complaisant hereafter, for  
 so many fine Gentlemen sigh for you  
 possibly you will say, ah, but I shall wrong  
 my Husband; alas, I love him dearly  
 ill Luck light on him, whose Years  
 would think should make him renounce  
 such Game; if it be so with him, what  
 will a young beardless Husband be?  
 these are unhappy Days for young Wo-  
 men to marry in; upon my Honour  
 Madam, I saw him so cold and indiffer-  
 ent with you, that I imagined he had re-  
 nounced his Love-Toys with his Age, but  
 Murrain on him, I find he has still a  
 Tooth in his Head for a wanton  
 The poor Young Lady was much distur-

at what she heard, and thinking it would be a great Dishonour if it were known, that a Gouty Old Fellow should prefer a Common Strumpet before her, she dissembled the Matter with the greatest Discretion imaginable, pretending she neither understood nor believed one Word of what her Servant had told her.

Away went the Post, and my Master calling me, reproved me severely; but I satisfied him that it was my Ignorance, and he having had a pleasing Entertainment, passed it by, but resolved for the future to look upon me as a Fool, and so took away from me all the Papers and other Business, wherein he had formerly employed me, doubting that I would commit some other Blunder of more fatal Consequence. Thus was I eased of a great deal of Trouble only for one Folly; what should I have been if I had committed many! But Fortune considered I was a Fool, and was therefore more kind and Favourable to me, and treated me as a Friend.

My Mistress was mollified and diverted by the Addresses and Services of a Nobleman, who courted her with much Warmth and Tenderness; permitted his visits sometimes, and received his Presents

sents ; and judging me to be secret, and a dissembler, she desired her Husband that I might be employ'd in her Service to wait upon her and carry Messages, to take her own Page in my stead : Master was pleas'd with the Motion, the Bargain was struck instantly, as that swops away a Horse.

## C H A P. V.

*He prosecutes his History, and relates what happened to him at Court, being a Page.*

**I**T is a general Custom over all Spain for the Nobility and Gentry to retain in their Houses certain Women (who are usually ancient Widows, and sometimes Wives) to be Governesses of the Houses, who wear a particular Habit and are call'd *Duenna's* ; some Ladies keeping Two, some Four, others Six of them, according to their Quality : as my Mistress had one of them.

A few days after I had been in the Service of my new Commandress, I was call'd aside by the *Duenna* into a private Room, who peeping into every Corner

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to see if any body heard us, I certainly concluded that she would give me a Schooling for Pimping for my Master. The Reverend Matron with her Rosary of Beads about her Neck, a little Book of Devotion in her Hand, and a pair of large Spectacles on her Nose, took me by the Arm, saying, '*Pedro*, though honest Servants have no need to be admonish'd of being trusty, because their Nature prompts them to be so; yet they commit many Errors by not thoroughly understanding their Business; now, my Son, I will give you some few necessary Instructions: You are come into a very Honourable and Credible House, and have till now serv'd your Master only; but remember that the Neglects which you may be guilty of toward them, are not of so great Consequence as those which are committed toward Ladies; you serve my Mistress, observe what I say, you must comply with all her Desires, and must never dispute her Commands, but obey them, whether they seem just or unjust, for such Objections are more proper for Churchmen than for Pages: If you would act discreetly, and promote your own Advantage, you must be all Obedience; 'obey

‘ obey Friend and be silent if you  
‘ to be obey’d another day ; you see  
‘ ny in the Streets who live handson  
‘ and have Servants of their own, by  
‘ ing complaisant in their Service to  
‘ thers. My Mistress knows you to  
‘ loyal and secret, because you have  
‘ so to your Master, and though it wa  
‘ her Prejudice, yet she esteems you  
‘ those Virtues, hoping that being  
‘ her Page, you will be as faithful to  
‘ you must know then, that a Noble  
‘ in this Court, who is both power  
‘ and liberal, makes his Addresses to  
‘ Lady : She is a Woman but ver  
‘ match’d, and thinks she ought to  
‘ grateful to the Love of this Prince  
‘ ling me his Title) you are to carry  
‘ this Letter, which is an Answer to  
‘ of his, and the Reward he will  
‘ you will make you sensible how  
‘ fitable it is to be secret ; and beca  
‘ would not always be telling you  
‘ same thing, be sure to remember  
‘ all the Messages on which you sha  
‘ sent to my Ladies Cousin, you  
‘ carry to the Count ; and this is eno  
‘ for your first Lesson ; I gave her Th  
‘ for her prudent Documents, and can  
‘ the Billet, according to Order.

I now perceiv'd how prejudicial my folly was, since I imagined my Mistress by my Intreague with her Husband became jealous, and resolv'd on Revenge : likewise observ'd that married Women generally learn of their Husbands to be unfaithful ; for as *Pliny* saith, they esteem it an Honour to imitate them : My married friend, if thou goest abroad a Nights to lebauch other Mens Wives, never question but thy own will requite thee, when she has an Opportunity. What a pleasant life did I lead in my new Office ? Those that take up this Employment are allur'd by the Prosperity of Pages ; for to speak plainly, he that is not a Pimp is no Page, but a meer Pretender to it. The Page that you see well cloth'd, brisk, and full of Money, knows his Cue : Those poor Fatterdemalions that do not, are cloth'd in Sackcloth. How many Plays was I carried to ? What Sports did I see ? What splendid Feasts did I partake of ? How much Gold had I given me ? What Acquaintance did I gain ? And from whence came all this good Fortune to me, but only for having the Reputation of being a Fool. My Lady thought I understood nothing by what I saw, and though she trusted

trusted me in all, yet did not seem to  
side in me at all.

At this time there happened to me  
very pleasant Accident: the Gentle  
of the Horse had a Quarrel with a pr  
Lady. He had treated her like a res  
ful Lover, and made her Hands spar  
with Diamonds, which shewed his  
splendent Folly: Coming to visit her  
time before his usual Hour, he catch  
napping with a Nobleman: some Ni  
after, he surpriz'd her with another  
tleman; at which being enrag'd  
Jealousy, he resolv'd to be reveng  
her. To this end he brought me my  
ster's richest Suit of Cloths, desiring  
I would put them on; and that being  
tended with the rest of my Fellow-Pa  
I should personate the Nobleman,  
make her a Visit; and should rifle her  
teelly of all her Jewels; for she wa  
Woman, who not only trusted her  
els to Gentlemen, but her Person  
which she freely surrendred to their  
Now I appearing so grand, we thou  
she might not be willing that the first  
should be made by Night; but rather  
the Day, which would be more for  
Honour; accordingly my Master be  
then Three Leagues from *Madrid*, at



to her's House, which he writ to when  
call'd the Post of *Aragon*: I was put in-  
his Coach; and the last Charge the  
gentleman of the Horse gave me was,  
that I should take care to feign my self an  
ignorant and a Fool, because this vain Wo-  
man would have the less Suspicion of me.  
In this Equipage we came to her House,  
being very gallant, and sitting in state in  
the Coach with the Pages round it; I sent  
one of them to acquaint her that the  
Count of *Rapina* was there; the Door  
was soon open'd, we entred, and I making  
my Honours by measure, sat down with-  
out speaking a Word, surveying the Lady  
from Top to Toe: Do not think this  
was the Action of one in Love; no, no,  
I had another Project, as you will soon  
hear; in viewing her I began to reflect  
that Pity it was, that so fine a Face and  
shape should be guilty of such wicked  
practices; and that such a beautiful Head  
should be so void of Sense; What Sot-  
tishnes is it then for Men to run mad af-  
ter Beauty; I always thought that they  
esteem'd handsom Faces, because they  
imagined that the Mind was agreeable to  
the Body; and that Nature was so kind  
to imprint Persons Dispositions upon  
their Countenances; that the Frowner  
like

like me, seems to say with his Face, heed of me for I am discontented and condition'd : The chearful Look, he's all Pleasantness and Goodness : swarthy and Tawny complexion'd, he has a coarse Soul : The high colour and fiery fac'd, that he is cholerick and desperate ; but woful Experience shews it is far otherwise : For this Woman tho transcendently handsome, was of a furious and treacherous Temper false to the Gentleman of the Horse, mad with me, as by the Sequel appears.

She was much concern'd to see me much surpriz'd at my coming in ; I cry it is she without doubt, tho' she is injured in her Picture ; she ask'd me what I said I told her, that lying idle at my Seat *Rapina*, I had sent for the Pictures of most beautiful Ladies of the Court ; that among them all I was so enamour'd with hers, that I left my Lady Mother and my good Gammons of Bacon, only to see the Original, which now appears to me much handsomer than the Picture she laugh'd at the Gammons of Bacon and my Lady Mother, and concluded I was a Fool, accounting her self already Lady of all *Rapina*, and treated me with the most obliging Expressions of Love

Kindness; but this had no Influence on me; for though I have confess'd I am a Fool, yet I was not a Brute; for I shew'd you, upon the Faith of an ill condition'd Man, her Flatteries did no way offend me, I rather nauseated them, and therefore made my Visit the shorter; I acquainted her that I was extremely pleas'd with some Diamond Rings which she had on her Fingers, and plucking them off, said I, 'By the Life of my Mother I will have as many more made for you, with small Diamonds like Stars, of the same fashion; how admirably they look, and how curiously are they compass'd? Come, come away, I'll go instantly to the Jeweller to bespeak them. I then took my leave, and she waited upon me to the Door, with many Acknowledgments of my Generosity, professing herself to be my Servant at command. I carried the Rings to the Gentleman of the Horse, who staid hard by, and taking him into the Coach we shar'd the story, and so ended my Courtship. I then perceiv'd that they, who pretend to have an Affection to these kind of women, do it not so much out of Love, because it is the Fashion to have a Mistress. I blam'd his ill Conduct, and added,

ded, that my Love succeeded better than be in a  
me, for I was smitten with a Damneſs to  
where there was no danger of theſe Inmannes  
treagues ; if ſhe allows me any Favours a dive  
it is purely Kindneſs, ſaid I, for Coſelf wet,  
tousneſs hath not taught her to diſſembleuff diſo  
if ſhe ſeems to diſoblige me it is notand ſaying  
of any Contempt, but only to keep away  
Decorum, which is required in moſt following  
Women, and I have Hopes ſhe has being ful  
cret Inclination for me, though ſhe had do  
ſeem to conceal it ; but I have no occaſion with his F  
to entertain any infamous Jealouſy The m  
judging my ſelf ſecure in her Merits which I  
Vertue, which will not be eaſily ſeem'd to  
quith'd.

While Doctor *Cenudo* very much pious, tha  
fed himſelf at the Recital of this his bond of the  
rous Enterprize, which he did at the edge all c  
neſt Deſire of his Friend call'd *Don Felix* approv  
& was expecting when he wou'd commove in the  
it, he obſerv'd he was fallen aſleep. Maſter of  
Hiſtorian diſpleas'd at this Neglect, ought to  
knowing that he was ſometimes troublation an  
with a Pain at his Heart, which was w'd in beir  
to make him faint away, pretending ſtainful C  
did not think him aſleep, he took a Bad been fa  
of Water, ſaying, *Bleſs the Man*, and of h  
threw it all in his Face. *Don Felix* the Gentl  
ked, and believing the Doctor judg'd Fellow,



who be in a Swound thought it a great Happiness to have found this Excuse for his Inmannerliness in sleeping in the midst of a diverting Story; and finding himself wet, and the whole Fabrick of his Ruff disorder'd, he return'd him thanks, and saying he found himself not well, he went away, promising to return the day following. He comply'd with his Word, as being fully resolv'd not to sleep again as he had done, and the Doctor went on with his History.

The manner of my *Platonick* Love, which I had related, and the Pleasure I seem'd to take therein, confirm'd my friends and Acquaintance in their Opinion, that I was a Fool; Men being so fond of their own Sentiments, that they judge all things ridiculous which they do not approve of; since none pretended to move in the same Method that I did. The Master of the Horse laugh'd at what he ought to have admir'd; I cryed up the caution and Warmth which my Mistress was w'd in being seen by me, and prais'd her disdainful Carriage toward me, as if they had been favours, and proper for a Woman, of her Quality and Deportment. The Gentleman of the Horse being a mer-ry Fellow, ' Well Signior *Cenudo*, said

C

he

' he, I'll lay you a Wager, that if y  
 ' make a Visit to this scornful Lady  
 ' the same Gallantry you are now in, an  
 ' make her believe that you have gre  
 ' Riches sent you by your Father fro  
 ' the *Indies* (since she knows he is the  
 ' in a profitable Employment) she w  
 ' be complaisant and pliable, will flatter  
 ' you, and correspond with whatever  
 ' you desire. I am unwilling, said I,  
 lay Wagers upon Impossibilities, how  
 ever let us go, and make Trial of  
 with all my Heart cried he, as soon  
 you please: We went then together  
 her House, and sending a Page before  
 give her notice I was there, the Joy  
 mine Eyes peep'd thro' a low Grate, a  
 saw me, but did not know me, beca  
 I was so fine; but begging leave to k  
 her Hands she knew the Voice, and  
 coming forth much surpris'd, she infor  
 ed her self by the Page of the Novel  
 he, that had been fully instructed in  
 lying Lesson, represented me to be v  
 Rich, and that my Father was Preside  
 of the *Canaries*: Out comes the Mother  
 and Daughter to receive us with a Wo  
 of Compliments; they were astonish'd  
 my Grandeur, not knowing whether  
 they should stile me Honourable or W  
 shipful;  
 to call me  
 in high C  
 down on a  
 Tenderne  
 he migh  
 he took  
 he Diam  
 ny Folly  
 ay they v  
 er for a  
 covetous,  
 to escape  
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shipful ; at length my Damsel determin'd  
to call me her Dear ; we were seated first  
in high Chairs, but she desired me to sit  
down on a Cushion nigh her, with much  
Tenderneſs, and many Endearments, that  
ſhe might have the ſtricter View of me ;  
ſhe took me by the Hands, and admir'd  
the Diamond Rings on my Fingers ; but  
my Folly aſſiſted me ſo far, that I did not  
ſay they were at her Service, for it is bet-  
ter for a Man to be counted a Fool than  
covetous, and ſo I had the good Fortune  
to eſcape the latter, by being thought the  
former : She with an engaging Smile put  
my Hand into hers, not to tell me my  
good Fortune, but thinking ſhe had me  
ſure.

Ever and anon the Gentleman of the  
Horse, whom I call'd Cozen, look'd at  
me, which brought freſh Bluſhes into my  
Cheeks to think what a Tryal I had  
made ; I ask'd for Water, they brought  
me ſome, with Variety of Sweet-meats,  
but they were all ſoure to me, yea I was  
aſham'd, that I did not take what ſhe  
brought me in her Hands, which the Bag-  
Wage thought proceeded from my Sottiſh-  
neſs and want of Wit. We then took  
our leaves, having been handſomly treat-  
ed, ſhe earneſtly deſiring me to ſee her  
again

again that Night, and that I would not  
a Stranger at her House, nor with  
new Fortune forget my former Love  
her ; with these and such like Follies  
accompanied us to the Door (a new  
favour in Ladies) the Mother relating  
my Cozen, whilst we were talking  
our selves, the great Quality and Fo  
tune of her Daughter, with other Ma  
ters which favour'd of Matrimony.

When we came home my Cozen had  
no Mercy on me, but persecuted me with  
his Scoffs and Reproaches ; and I was  
much asham'd and astonish'd to find  
Women were alike, that I renounc'd  
Love, plainly discovering that her for  
mer Disdain proceeded from my Poverty  
and her present Favours not out of  
Respect to my Person, but only to  
Fortune, and could not enough abhor  
Folly for pleasing my self with her Sco  
ffs and in glorying that I was disdain'd  
her. However I visited them sometimes  
by Night, in my embroider'd Cloak,  
Hat edg'd with Gold Lace, and my gla  
rified Sword, which all belong'd to the G  
entleman of the Horse, who encourag'd  
to prosecute my Revenge. I enjoy'd  
civil Freedoms, and received many  
fours of them for a great while ;

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without reflecting upon the Folly of Women, who only having an Opinion that I was Rich, though I had never given them any thing, but received many Kindnesses from them, yet valued me so highly, and never knew how to make enough of me.

By this time the cunning Gipsy thought I was over head and Ears in Love ; for they could not imagine that such a Fool as I could lye and dissemble with so much Confidence ; now though I perceived she had some kind of Affection for me, yet I imagin'd all her Pretensions were only to the false Riches which she supposed were brought me from the *Indies* ; and said within my self, how can these Women be so vain to love that which is not, nor cannot be, and despise the Person of a Man which hath Being and Value ; I began to contemn her, and spoke to her without those ridiculous Commendations I formerly used. I remembered she was Flesh and Bloud as well as my self, Familiarity having made me consider her more cheaply. I learn'd how necessary it is for a Man to be a Fool to enjoy his Love ; for whilst I observ'd that Respect which discreet Men use in that Affair I got nothing but Wind and Smoak ; but after I

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became

became a real Fool in the Opinion of the World, I obtain'd what I would. Men are the occasion of making Women proud and disdainful, who believe themselves deserve all the Flatteries we bestow upon them, and when they have wash'd, painted, and put on a new Face, and see their own handy Work in a Looking-Glass, they believe they brought the white and red out of their Mother's Bellies, or else they would never overvalue themselves as they do : The best way is to despise them, for he that adores them, takes Arms against himself.

Several Nights afterward when I made my Visits I found divers other Gallants in her Company, but never shewed any Signs of Jealousy, which made her more ardently wish that I were her Husband. Nay my Covetousness too did me Service for listening once, I heard her Mother say to her Daughter, this Man is for our turn ; he is one that knows how to keep his estate, and not to spend it among lewd Women ; for tho' he loves thee tenderly, he hath never shewn any Sign of Prodigality. He's none of those huffing Sparks, who, with a little Scholarship, and a few stale Compliments and Flatteries, which they have learn'd

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of others, like Parrots, without knowing what they say, think they are as wise as *Solomon*, and at the same time suffer themselves to be spong'd upon, and bubbld by any indigent Fellow, that pretends to admire 'em.

I, having been so often near the Fire, began to grow warm, having a small Passion for my Mistress, and began to speak of Marriage; I had no sooner uttered that Word, but she thought she had Possession of all the Wealth of *India*, and presented me with Pearls, Diamonds, Chrystals, yea Silver, and Gold, and thought them all too little for me. My Love hereupon began to cool, and such a number of foolish Toys glutted me, though another would have eaten his Fingers ends that he might have received so many Favours; but divers Men have different Palates, and mine was so squeamish, that I utterly abandon'd all my Pretensions to her, and never visited her more.

On the one side of *Madrid* is a pleasant Walk call'd the *Prado*, whether the Gallants and Ladies resort every Evening in the Summer time to take the Air; the Place being adorn'd with many curious Fountains and Rows of high Trees, and

is water'd at Three or Four a Clock the Afternoon by Porters at the Chancery of the City. My Master intending to go thither one Sunday in more State than usual, because the King was to come down that day to the Dukes Garden; therefore commanded all the Servants of his House, as well his Lady's as his own, to wait upon him; I went among the rest, and coming to the Convent of the Minims, I saw Two Women veil'd with white and black Smoak, and Clouds of Silk, so that I could not see their Faces, but I saw that they were their Hoods and Mantles. They both look'd earnestly upon me, and I, who could never shake off my amorous Humour, though I had met with so many Misadventures in Pursuit of it, was mightily pleas'd, supposing they were talking with my Person or Carriage; I began to walk more stately, and let my Master's Coach pass forward with the Pages, endeavouring not to appear to be one of them; but that was impossible, because I carried a Badge of Slavery upon my Back, which was surely an Invention of the Devil, since my Livery proclaim'd to all the World that I was not my own Master, but in Servitude to another: I curs'd my Fortune that made me so much a Favourite with the Ladies, and had not given me

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wherewithal to answer their Expectations.

I drew nearer to them, looking very amorously, and saying, Ladies the Prize is yours, you have already conquer'd your obsequious Adorer; and so was



running on with such Courtship, as is not proper to be us'd to civil Women, but to those that are loose and wanton; they held their Peace, and view'd me more intently, one whispering the other and sighing; as I live, said I to my self, the Girl sighs for me; let not the Poets then be censur'd for making a Lady in their

Plays fall in love with a handsome Gentleman at first sight, since a young Lady stands sighing for me, a poor Page in Livery, who have for Four Years trotted up and down the Streets of Madrid. I thinking Shame detain'd me from answering, I began to speak modestly, shewing what an excellent Faculty I had therein. They still continued silent, for which I the more admir'd them judging it a wonderful thing that Women should be able to hold their Tongues so long. At length the airy of them putting out her Hand from under her Veil, which might have afforded the Snow for Whiteness, made a Sign with it, that I should follow them to the most unfrequent part of the Prado; I did so with the greatest Joy imaginable and being come to the privatest part of the Grove they stood still, and she with the talking Hands made a Sign I should come nearer, so that my Face was almost join'd to hers; but at that Instant catching me fast by the Ear with one Hand began to maul and cuff me furiously, whilst her Companion arm'd with her Choppins, or wooden Clogs, whilst she pull'd from her Feet, shower'd such a Storm of Blows upon my Head, and

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whole Body that they left me for dead. In the Skirmish she that attack'd me with the greatest Vigour discovered her Face, so that I knew her to be the liberal Damsel whom I had mump'd of her Jewels; who finding what a sham I had put upon her, was resolv'd to be even with me; they then gave many Stabs to my Honour, and dignified me with more Names and Titles than are given to the Eastern Emperors, calling me Rogue, Rascal, Villain, Thief, Pimp, Cheat, Impostor, and what not; I would have made my Defence, but it was impossible, for they rail'd so violently that they would not suffer me to utter a Word. The Storm being a little allayed, I fell on my Knees, desiring them to excuse the Errors of Love, and us'd some other Arguments, but my Humility would not save me, for they returned to drub me afresh, and at last went away wearied, but not satisfied, threatening that I should not come off so cheap, for they would have my Bloud. This Combate with the Choppins utterly untwined my Love, and I abhor'd the Place too, where I had suffer'd such Persecution. It happened a few Days after, that my Master going into the Countrey, as he often did, the *Duenna*, or Governess, called

call'd me aside, and gave me a Billet *String* in  
 deliver to my Mistress's Gallant, *charney* mu  
 ing me to be very watchful that *Nig* or a dece  
 because the Count or Nobleman was *their* Cri  
 come to wait on her, and he was to enjoy and t  
 the Door to him ; I promised to do it, *the* Coun  
 ried the Note to the Count, and *re*Port of h  
 ved for my Reward a Chain of Gold, to her,  
 binding me with such glorious Fetters *meaning*  
 promote his Interest ; for though I *ther*, wh  
 turally lov'd Freedom, and was ill *ht*o carry t  
 mor'd, abhorring to be concern'd in *ato* confide  
 base Practices ; yet this shining *Mer* *the* *Duc*  
 which being Son of the Sun, seems with the  
 have an universal Empire over all *Path*at *Nig*  
 of the Globe, softned my rough Temp *Pres*ents  
 and subjected me to the meanest *Dr*ulent he  
 gery.

Night came on, and my Folly *secur*man bef  
 me from the great Danger wherein I *ce*said I, a  
 tainly was ; for I had a foolish *Inclin*She was  
 tion to make my Lady sensible that I *w*crossing  
 acquainted with her *Intreagues*, and *th*added, I  
 her Honour was in my Hands, *thinkin*terseited  
 I should thereby gain her Favour, *and*demure  
 that she would esteem and treat me with *Honour*  
 more Kindness, since her Reputation *wa*your *T*  
 so highly concern'd in it. And *sure*stize you  
 though the Pleasures of Love are *so* in which d  
 chanting, yet there must needs be *some*great Ra



let string in it, when Persons consider that  
they must be Slaves to a malicious Page,  
Nigro a deceitful Governess, for concealing  
their Crimes; I came then with much  
joy and told her, how extremely pleas'd  
the Count was to find himself so near the  
report of his Happiness. This was News  
to her, nor could she apprehend the  
meaning of it, till after I had informed  
her, who gave me the Note I mentioned  
to carry to the Count; she began at length  
to consider that this was an Imposture of  
the *Ducenna's*, who had made a Bargain  
with the Nobleman to sell her Honour  
that Night, being greedy of the Rich  
presents which the amorous Count pre-  
sented her with: She inquired whether

I had carried any Messages to that Noble-  
man before; A great number Madam,  
I said I, and all by order of the *Ducenna*;  
She was much surpris'd at what I said,  
cursing and blessing her self, and then  
added, so, so, are you he then, that coun-  
terfeited your self a Fool, and she the  
demure Hypocrite; well, well, upon my  
Honour I'll acquaint your Master with  
your Tricks, who knows how to cha-  
racterize you according to your Merits; after  
which dreadful Words she retired in a  
great Rage to her Bed-chamber.

I was astonish'd to find what a the *Duenna* had put upon me, since a *Duenna* was able to fool a Man so; they are always treacherous and unfaithful, no People being more deceitful than they, and which vexes me most, all done with a Pretence of Sanctity and devotion; they study only to betray their Daughter whom the Mother hath left in their Governance; or the new married Wife whom her Husband hath left under their Care; how brittle is the Honour of Women, who though never so modest never so well married, yet are debauch'd by the Avarice of a *Duenna*, who judging all her Sex to be as vicious as her self had been so long as she was able, imagine they oblige them, when they are doing them the greatest Injury, and promising them the greatest Affignations in their Names. I was resolv'd to revenge my self upon the *Duenna*, for it being late, and she gone to Bed betimes, designing to rise at Two in the Morning, which was the Hour she had appointed the Count to come, I put on a Farendine Cloak, entered her Chamber, and came to her bed-side where she lay alone; then rustling my Silks, and speaking with an hoarse Voice, as if it had been the Count, I took my buckle

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Girdle, and with hard Words, and harder Stripes, chastized her to my Content, flledging, she had abused me in pretending to bring me into her Lady's Bed who was so innocent and chaste a Person.

I then went down to the Street-door, with Intent to send back the Nobleman, but found that the Keys of that and several other Doors between that and her own Chamber were carried to her, to prevent her being betrayed by my Folly, or the Impiety of her *Duenna*. I went to Bed since I perceived the Intreague was prevented, but could not sleep a Wink for Vexation at the Accident, and to consider how uncertain the Judgments of Men are, and how little Credit we ought to give to our own Eyes though the most faithful of our Senses: I had seen her receive the Presents the Count sent her, but my Mistress knew not they were his; and thought she was obliged to the Kindness of a Lady of her Acquaintance for them, by whose Hand they came to her. So unfortunate is Beauty, that even a Friend becomes a Traitor sometimes, for sordid Gain. Let not the unhandsome then complain of their ill Fortune, but consider that Beauty is subject to many Infelicities and Troubles, and with a few  
vain

64 *The Lucky Idiot: Or,*

vain Flatteries has a Mixture of  
real Sorrows.

CHAP. VI.

*He goes to a new Master, and  
the Examination of a Crew of Ship  
Doctors at Salamanca.*

**I** Rise next Morning as soon as 'twas  
being fearful I should be  
maul'd by my Master, when his Wife  
acquainted him with the Affair, and  
to the Count, who was just going to  
complaining of his Head; I pretend  
my self extreamly troubled, and desir  
that his Servants might retire, for  
thus to him; 'I think it much unbeco  
'ing a Person of your Lordship's Figur  
'to treat a Lady of Quality with so mu  
'Neglect; I come Sir to acquaint yo  
'from my Mistress, that you had fr  
'Entrance into her House, having alre  
'dy gain'd the same in her Breast, y  
'you did not appear at the Hour ap  
'pointed; your Lordship ought to hav  
'abandon'd Play for one Night at lea  
'how fond soever you are of it, and no  
'to have put such an Affront upon a Per

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of a person who has so great an Esteem for you, and whose Slighting of her, for ought I know, may cost her her Life. By the Order of Knighthood, with which I am honoured, replied the Count, I staid at her Door with the utmost Anxiety from Two a Clock in the Night till this Morning ; then your Lordship had ill Luck, said I, for I stood waiting for you at the Door till One a Clock, and hearing a Horse stop, thinking it had been your Lordship, I opened the Door, and said to my self, it is the Count, your Lordship may come in, for my Lady expects you with the utmost Impatience. Scarce had I spoke, when the Gentleman (who was my Master) alighting, took me by the Arm, and thrust me into the House, commanding a Servant that came with him to lock the Door, and carrying me into his Chamber, after he had severely disciplin'd me with an Horse-whip, Sirrah, said he, you Rascal, Pimp, Villain, tell me truly what Count it was that you expected ; indeed Sir, said I, my Lady knows nothing of the matter ; it was only a Plot contrived between me and the Duenna, to let a Nobleman into the House (telling him a feigned Name) who having corrupted our Fidelity

lity by Money and Gifts, we promised me on He  
let him in this Night ; hereupon he came where  
me, making me swear to keep the caution, a  
ter secret, and went to chastize the Dis invent  
na, and know from her the whole new Ma  
ness. Your Lordship therefore this Gent  
much Danger if she should discover Count's Fa  
true Name and Quality, as I doubt thousand  
will.

Thou say'st true, said the Count,olly than  
'tis very perilous to trust a Man's Seed comp  
with a Woman, and I doubt I shall bestow  
ruin'd ; for her Husband, being a Noxcomb  
*Aragonian*, will endeavour to find ear in Be  
out and kill me, and having Justification o  
his side I am the more apprehensive and ready  
Resentment ; so that I think it ade spoke n  
able to absent my self from the City ere appla  
some time. In a few Days he put this ho woul  
solution in Execution, under Pretence should  
going to visit his Tenants, and look alory and  
his Estate ; leaving me with a Brothave, and  
his, an Ecclesiastick, who was ge Vulga  
shortly to *Salamanca*, on whom I wine, De  
ed in quality of a Page, wherein by me y will,  
Folly I made my Discretion appear ; od or il  
that my being a Fool was not only be perior F  
ficial to me, but my feigning my self at all t  
be one likewise ; for who could be cording  
foolish to imagine, that the Count wo here are

me on Horseback upon such an Enter-  
prise wherein Gallants use the greatest  
caution, and Privacy possible; however  
his invented Story of mine procur'd me  
new Master much to my Advantage:  
this Gentleman was the second of the  
pount's Family, and had about Sixteen  
thousand Ducats of Ecclesiastical Reve-  
ues coming in yearly; yet had more  
illy than Money: I will not stop here,  
Send complain of the Malice of Fortune,  
that bestowing on a mere Blockhead and  
a Noxcomb Sixteen Thousand Ducats a  
year in Benefices, and it may be the Re-  
sult of being wiser than I; for he  
ve old ready Money to oblige, and though  
ade spoke never so foolishly, yet his Words  
City were applauded as Oracles: Oh Riches!  
this who would think, that being so uncertain,  
ten should purchase to your Owners such  
okalory and Honour, both while they are  
othave, and also to future Ages: But let  
s ge Vulgar complain of their bad For-  
I wine, Destiny, their ill Stars, or what  
by ney will, I, who am satisfied that all the  
ear; good or ill we receive proceeds from the  
ly beperior Powers, cannot but acknowledge  
y tell that all things are distributed to Mortals  
d be according to Reason and Justice; and if  
t wothers are not of the same Opinion, let  
co them

them blame their own Want of Penetration, or their Pride, to question the disposal of all Matters here below. A Blind Man should complain of the Darkness of the Sun, would you not say, Fault was in his Eyes? Why then should we accuse the Sun of Injustice, of Neglect and Partiality, since we our selves only are faulty.

May we not think, that my Master who was born a Fool, had more need of those Sixteen Thousand Ducats than I, since otherwise he would have received Two grievous Detriments, and might have thought to have been unjustly dealt with. One, in coming into the World naked and without being furnish'd with the Principal Goods, which are Wisdom and Understanding; and another, that he would have been expos'd to Want and Misery without those Succours, which supply humane Necessities; so that there appears'd great Equity in the Business, that since he had not Wit to provide for himself, he should have Wealth to answer that great Defect. But I, who am a free Thinker, and weigh every thing in the Ballance of Reason, though by the Injury of all Tongues, and Envy of bad People I am reckon'd a Fool, do not think



myself altogether an Idiot, but am endued with such Discretion, that I value not vain Riches, as judging them more proper for those that have less Wit than myself.

The Count had given his Brother my new Master such a Character of my Modesty, Carefulness and Secrecy, that I was very easy in his Service, and in Confidence of my good Qualities he employed me only in matters of his Pleasure; he had also acquainted him with my Innocence and Simplicity, and my supercilious Frown confirm'd him therein; so that the first Frolick he had, after we arriv'd at *Salamanca*, was to make himself and his Friends merry with my good Humour, as he call'd it, which he added, was not without pleasant Conceits; they design'd to discover their Knowledge by my Ignorance; but I made it appear that I knew many things, of which they were ignorant.

One Night my Master having invited several of his Friends to an Entertainment; while they were making merry, about a Dozen of their Servants got into a Room by themselves, furnish'd with Hoods, Caps, and Gowns, like a Conclave of Doctors, with Trumpets, Kettles.

tle-Drums, and other Musick ; they then sent a Message to my Master, on whom I was waiting, acquainting him, That in the University of *Salamanca*, was an ancient laudable Custom, that they should make a Tryal of the Wit and Ability of every Person who came to learn at that Faculty there, the Neglect whereof had occasioned many Inconveniencies ; that they dispenced with his Worship, in regard of the good Opinion they had entertained in his Favour ; but that they much suspected the Deficiency of his Servant *Pedro Cenudo*, and desir'd leave that he might come to Examination : When all my Heart, replied my Master, and thanking these Sham-Doctors that they would honour his Lodging, he received them in a spacious Room, where all things were prepar'd for the Ceremony.

The Doctors sat down in the Order that they thought proper as to Superiority ; and after one of them had informed the Cabal at large of the Occasion of their Assembling, there came Two Mace-Bearers and set me in the middle of the Hall, upon a little Bench with a lighted Flambeau on both sides of me, that I might be Witnesses of my Ignorance.

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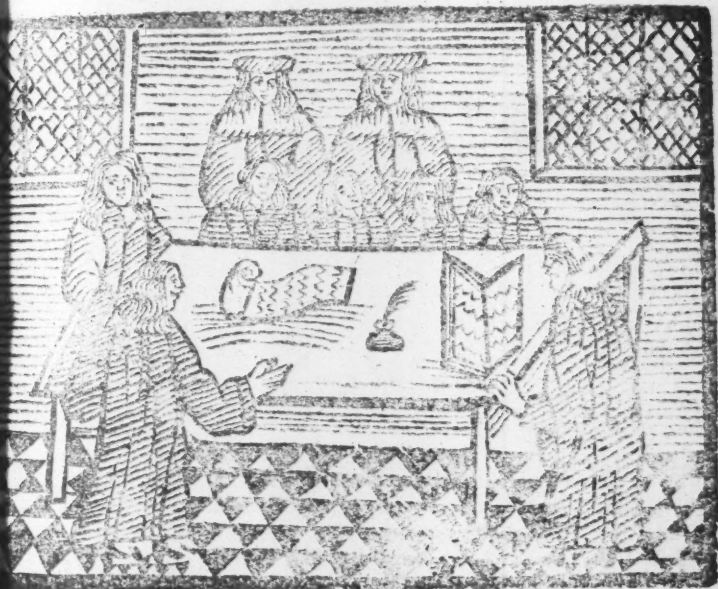
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Several of the Doctors questioned me about divers Matters, which with my answers I took in Writing to display their Wisdom and my Weakness; these I have set down Dialogue wise, where *D.* shall stand for Doctor, and *F.* for Fool; whereby you may discover how little Credit is to be given to the Opinion of Doctors, who often count them Fools that are wiser than themselves.



**The Fool's Examination.**

- D.* Which is the most discreet Folly?  
*F.* Love.  
*D.* Which is the most entertaining Folly?  
*F.* Play.

*D.* Which

D. *Which is the most excusable Folly?*

F. Ambition.

D. *How may a Fool cease to be so?*

F. By knowing that he is so.

D. *How shall he know that he is so?*

F. By discoursing with wise Men.

D. *What hath a Man need of to become a Wise?*

F. To be modest and teachable.

D. *Why are there so many Fools in the World?*

F. Because no Body thinks himself so.

D. *To what Science are you inclin'd?*

F. To all.

D. *Are you able to learn all?*

F. Do you know how to teach me all?

D. *They are all taught in this University.*

F. If they are all taught, why may not they all be learnt?

D. *The Life of Man is too short for such an Undertaking.*

F. Why should we not then endeavour to lengthen it?

D. *How can that be?*

F. By refraining from the Pleasures of Love, the bewitchings of Play, the Follies of Ambition, Voluptuousness in eating or Drinking, and the Madness of Covetousness; these are the Methods by which our Life would be lengthened, but



are much shorter, because we do not live by the Rules of Nature.

D. Few Men are capable of more than one Science ; and therefore the University hath ordained that we should make Tryal of every ones Capacity, and Instruct him in that Science to which he shall answer most happily.

F. This is Madness, to teach me what I understand already : Instruct me rather in what I do not know. However, in regard we must conform to the humour of the World, I am contented to be farther examin'd upon this Subject. Let's hear your Questions ?

D. Will you Learn the Law ?

F. I would gladly be a Lawyer if there was any thing to be Learnt ?

D. I don't understand you.

F. The Law is nothing else but Reason, which guides us to follow only what is Just, and the Plow Man governs himself by Reason, unless some Passion or Affection hinder him : So I find there is too much Law written and learnt, which obscures both Reason and Justice : so that when a poor Country Man goes to advise with a Lawyer, and declares to him plainly the Reason and Equity of his Cause, the Lawyer only perplexes the Cause, and confounds the plain Matter of Fact with his Quirks and Glosses, of some old worm eaten Law Book.

*D. But if you were a Judge, there is such Subtilty in that Office.*

*F. Why? Do not I observe every day that the Opinion of one Judge is contradicted by another, which proceeds either from Passion or Ignorance; and I am not for an Imployment in which there are such Extrems.*

*D. Would you be a Physician?*

*F. I am not very fond of feeling the Pulses of the Female Sex, and yet I could willingly be one of that Faculty, were it not for casting Waters, and inquiring how many stools the Patients have had, which agrees not at all with my Stomach.*

*D. I perceive then that you are inclin'd to be a natural Philosopher.*

*F. Indeed there is no Science that agrees with my Constitution like this; but I would not go to the Universities to learn it, because I find the ancient Philosophers contradicting one another in their several Ages: and in this Age, there is so much Clamour and Dispute about their meanings, and beating your Brains all your Lifetime with Sophistical Arguments, because such a Philosopher said it; who were now alive, and observ'd what a noise you make about it, would tell you doubtless he never intended there should be such a*

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concerning a matter of so little consequence.

D. *Possibly you may have a Fancy for Poetry.*

F. As for Poetry, I have known it many Years.

D. *Do you understand it? I find but few in the World that have a true Notion of it.*

F. The Rules and Precepts of Poetry, are like the Divine Precepts, which all are acquainted with, but few observe them: so no question, the Art may be known, but it is not so easily practic'd.

D. *I find then that you resolve to spend your Life among Philosophers, Historians, and Rhetoricians.*

F. All these seem troublesome People to me. For the Ancient Philosophers were only a parcel of Idle Fellows that strow'd about from one good Dinner, and one Tavern to another, whereby they liv'd Merrier, and bred good blood; and sometimes let fall a witty Sentence or two, which many a Man well warm'd with Wine, utters by Dozens. Now the sottish Mob of those Ages, counted all their Sayings to be Oracles. Some Years after, an Ingenious Man finding these Sentences to be in great Estimation with the People, Polisheth and Publisheth them to Posterity, with the name

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of the Drunken Coxcomb that utters them : and others that succeeded him finding them trim'd up, and had in Veneration for their Antiquity, they quote them with as much Authority as if they had been Ordained by a General Council though a Merry-Andrew often utters some things more Ingenious, and more to the purpose.

I am a Man, who when I get a great deal of Money, hear good News, or have hopes of obtaining the Favour of my Mistress, speak more witty Sentences in a day, than these old doting Philosophers do in a Year, and at an hundred Entertainments ; wherein they were treated with the best Wines, capable of Elevating the most stupid *Genius* ; and I should value myself for my Ingenuity, were not the World so full of Wise Men who are so desirous to be admired that they would disesteem me, if it were but for wearing a ragged Gown : For in this Age good Cloaths are counted signs of a good Wit, as if some dull Jades were not well harness'd. The other day I met a Physician, a Friend of mine, and asking him when he would clear the World of Sick People, he replied, when he had got Money enough to Buy him a Mule ; as if the Mule had been to feel the

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Polse, and cast the Water. (Observe by the way, that the *Spanish* Physicians, when they go to visit their Patients, always ride upon Mules.)

As for your Historians, they are the most Mischievous People in the World, being all for Battle, Murder, and Sudden Death: and if at any time they relate matters of Peace, they pass over them as quickly as a Cat over Fire Coals. I account them People of an ill Palate, who seem so much pleased in Painting out an Army of Cowardly white-liver'd Fellows knocking one another in the Head, and extolling a Barbarous General or Marshal for his great Courage, though guilty of the most horrid Ravages. Is not this the token of an Hellish Nature? I cannot meet with a Prudent and Peaceable Historian fit for my Conversation; for if a Man discourses with one of these Furies, he finds him arm'd *Cap-a-pe* when he least thinks of it. Thou Historian of *Lucifer*, are there no Transactions of Peace which deserve everlasting Remembrance? Are Peaceable, Deserving, Virtuous Men, to be pass over in Silence, and all their Worthy Actions to be forgotten? I have fancied a thousand times, that they purposely describe the Thunders and Ratlings of a Battle, only

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that they may bring in their Pompous and flattering Orations.

Rhetorick I call not an Art, but mere Trifling ; for to perswade in speaking what needs any greater Art, than for a Man to utter his Mind in plain words. When I see a Merchant or Shop-keeper Selling his Goods, who being ignorant of Rhetorick, has the Skill to perswade his Customer, that a Castor is a Beaver Hat or that Stockins of Hair and Worsted are Toledo Silk : I scorn all Rhetorick, and him that takes pains to Learn it, or thinks it needful in the World.

*D. Now I find we begin to understand one another, and 'tis evident you come to learn Astrology.*

*F.* Heaven preserve me in my Senses since that Science which pretends to make us conversant with the Stars favours plainly of Madness ; and yet suppose we should Calculate a Nativity pursuant to the Rules of those Star-gazers, is it not the greatest Folly to pry into our future Fortune, and to feel our Evils thrice over, at the same time defrauding our selves of the Pleasure of good Events ? We are thrice sensible of our Misfortunes by this Art ; afraid before they happen, griev'd when they come upon us, and disturb'd at the remembrance

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of them. Though I must likewise acknowledge, that the Joy we conceive upon good Events, is sometimes allay'd, and our hopes frustrated of what we most desire. The other Arts, as Musick, Geometry, Arithmetick, and Cosmography, do not agree with my Cholerick Humour, for not apprehending them without much Study and Difficulty I tire out the Patience of him that would instruct me in them.

D. Well Sir, the College have thought fit to give you a longer time to deliberate what Science best suits your Genius; in the mean time while your Folly continues, we condemn you to be a Servant, as being the most proper Employment for Fools.

My Friend, who was call'd *Don Felix*, admired and applauded the Fools Examination; observing that the Doctors counted all these Wise Sayings, Follies, only because I did not answer as they suppos'd I would have done. So that I find Folly amongst Men, is no other than a contradiction of Opinions; and we account a Man a Fool who has not the same taste of things which we have: But let us remember that we are no Angels, and have many things in common with the Brutes, and that it is most certain we know nothing for certain. When I saw this Assembly of

Grave Doctors, Laughing and Flouting what deserv'd Applause, I began from that day to despise every Man that was call'd Doctor, judging them all to be as Foolish as these, and believing that flat Caps and Gowns did not make Men Learned nor Discreet. Nay, so much did I abhor the name of all Doctors, that falling sick with a violent Defluxion of Rheum, which was afraid would have strangled me, would not follow the Doctors Direction to be instantly let Blood; I thought it too much that they often take away a Man's Reputation, by pretending he has some foul Disease, and was unwilling they should take away my Life. Two days after I recover'd, occasion'd by my Folly, in not making use of the Doctor; for had I obeyed mine it had been my Death, if it be certain what Physicians generally affirm that there is nothing more dangerous than bleeding in cold Distempers.

I went afterwards to hear the Readings in the University, as that College of Fools had enjoyn'd me, but found it was all but Folly, and so spent the time I should have wasted in those Readings, (which only treated of the Dreams and Thesis of such or such an ancient Philosopher) in perusing one Book or other in my own Lodg-

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ing, compos'd in a clearer Stile, and with much more Elegancy. Who would imagine that my Folly should contribute to make me Learned? Yet you find it made me a Scholar, and freed me from the Impertinence and Disquiet of the Schools.

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C H A P. VII.

*He proves Treacherous to his Master, in the matter of his Amours; and engages him in a Quarrel, which obliged them to depart from Salamanca.*

**M**Y Master finding I was so little affected to the Schools, gave me an Employment which remov'd me many Leagues from them: He had deluded a handsome Young Wench by the Charms of his Gold, to comply with his Amorous Inclinations; and being Jealous, as he had great reason to be, in regard he was very hard favour'd, and cold to Extremity, he made me her Guardian, supposing that I who appeared such a dull insipid Fellow, would give him no cause to suspect my Loyalty and Fidelity, being the more confirm'd therein by the Severity of my Countenance, the Gravity of my Pace, and the Slowness of my Speech.

He kept this nice piece of Goods in an House, accompanied only by an Old Matron, a Young Servant Maid, and my self, who was to be her Guard and Supervisor. Here he Din'd, Supt, and Slept, and believing that I kept as strict a watch over her, as if like *Argus*, I had an hundred Eyes, he Banish'd all Suspicion, and thought her as secure as if he had always carried her in his Pocket. I now imagin'd my self in an Inchant'd Palace ; for without taking care of any thing, the Tables were furnish'd every day at Dinner and Supper with all Varieties of Dainties, by the Management of my Master who minded nothing else.

I cannot much blame such Women as seem pleas'd with these kind of Gallants, whose Understandings being weak, are not able to divert them by witty Conversation ; they therefore endeavour to make them amends by costly Entertainments, and being also insensible of any Defects in the frail Sex, are more constant in their Love, and less Subject to desert them, whereas a Man of Sense, having his Mind free, flies from one Divertisement to another, and is so Volatile in his Amours, that a Woman cannot have so great a Passion for him as for the other ; therefore we see

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such Blockheads better belov'd than the other, because they Love in earnest, Sollicit in earnest, and Adore in earnest.

But that we may not envy their good Fortune, observe how it happen'd to my Master. He had been Educated Daintily under his Lady Mother, and quarrel'd often with the Maids about his Breakfast and other Fopperies, being Bred more like a young Gentlewoman than a Student; from this kind of Education, he had learnt such a Riff Fantastical Behaviour as utterly spoil'd all his Sport. He discours'd his pretty Miss as if he had been talking to one of his Aunts, and us'd such rude bold Complements, as were in fashion in his great Grand-Mothers Days; yet not for want of Love, for he was extravagantly Enamour'd of her, but from a natural Stupidity and Constraint. With this Treatment, the Breast of the Lady was become as Cold as Ice; and no wonder, since Women are as the Moon is with the Sun: for as she receives all her Light from that Vivifying Gallant, so Ladies have the greatest kindnesses for those Lovers from whom they receive the warmest Entertainments. To think that they will love thee if thou art Frigid, is meer Folly: thou mayst make them Rich, but never fond of thee, nor really

ally kind to thee ; if that be thy Condition, thou wert better turn Fryar and live in a Cell, and not Court Females with Rheums and Cathars : for though many great Men think their Nobility secures them, and that their Ladies have no reason to be unfaithful to them ; yet it often happens, that their Gentlemen, Stewards, or Coach-men, are more Belov'd and Valu'd than themselves. This was the Case of my Master, for notwithstanding all his Sollicitude and Study to please and treat his Mistress, yet I being Younger had her Heart : the Familiarity that had past between us, making her sensible that my Deserts were better than my Masters. What reason have I then to complain of Ill Fortune, being an Impudent Traytor to my Master by having the Reputation of a Fool ? I enjoy sixteen thousand Duckets a Year, which from another's hand, I spend in my own Delights. These and other Adventures of no less Importance, happen'd to me at *Salamanca*, which I purposely omit, to relate the end of my Courses, which were as Foolish as the beginning.

The Poets feign, that when *Jupiter* had Beautified the World with such Variety of Curiosities, and Accommodated Mankind with so many Blessings, to prevent Mens



too much doating upon them, he blended these Goods with a certain mixture of Evils ; so that the Dignities of Great Men, are mixt with the Cares and Troubles of managing them. The Felicity of Wit, with the persecution of Envy ; Men of Merit, are vext with Poverty ; Rich Misers with wretched Covetousness : At length observing that Men seem'd to take most Delight in Love, he imbitter'd the same with Jealousie, which is doubtless one of the worst of humane Infelicities. This was my unhappy Condition ; for the foolish Girl was visited, and seem'd well pleas'd with the Courtship of a Gentleman of the City, who appeared very Great with his Large Ruff, Gold Chain, and Plush Cloak, as the fashion then was. Now though I was not insensible of my own Merits, yet I much doubted the constancy of the Wench, whose Eyes were dazled with the sight of so much Gallantry ; she being already tired with my Conversation which she had so long enjoy'd. I perceiv'd then, that Women for want of Prudence, slight and undervalue Men of the Brightest Parts and Abilities : I envied the genteel Ruff, thinking that every hole therein was a discharge of Artillery against that Fortres ; and curst the Students Habit which I was obliged to wear,

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wear, as judging it the occasion of my being slighted by her : I often threatned to acquaint my Master with her Conduct, but she laugh'd at me, assuring her self that she would keep her Failings secret for fear she should publish my Treachery. Thus perceiving my self Jealous, I thought it an ill Omen, and began to doubt that I stood on the threshold of Discretion, and was again becoming Wise ; remembering the Maxim of Carpio the famous Spanish Poet.

*The Man whose Breast, no Jealous Passions swell,  
And yet pretends his Heart's Loves Sacrifice,  
Is either Foolish, or else Loves too well ;  
Because Distrust declares a Man is Wise.*

Accordingly, I doubted some ill Luck would befall me because I now became Wise, and could not forget that at all times when I ceas'd to be a Fool, it occasion'd me a great deal of Trouble and Vexation. Possibly you may wonder that I was sometimes Wise, and other while Foolish ; and may Maliciously censure me for a Dissembler, and I could wish it were no worse. Malicious Friend ! if thou think'st that the generality of Mankind are not so, thou art a Fool ; for the Wisest Man is sometimes guilty of Folly, and reckons that some Ex-

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travagancies have the appearance of Gal-  
lantry, and set off his other Actions; when  
we hear a Man hath accomplish'd his De-  
sign, we must not always think him Dis-  
creet; and when he miscarries in his Pro-  
jects, he is not for that to be accounted a  
Fool, because both these might happen by  
chance, and an arrant Fool may hit upon  
something very advantagious to him be-  
cause he could do no otherwise; and suf-  
fered himself to be led by his Fortune, his  
Wisdom being no ways Accessary thereto.

The ill Prelages I had when I became  
Wife, accomplish'd their Threatnings; for  
bad Anguries are like the People of *Ara-  
gon*, who will sooner Renounce their God  
than their Revenge. I found my self dis-  
quieted on every side. If I thought of re-  
newing my Love, Discretion instantly re-  
prehended me, and said, there is no room  
for thee; Another hath interpos'd with his  
great Ruff, and large bulky Plush Cloak:  
If I should have given way to my Senti-  
ments, and repaired my Injury with Ven-  
geance, I was afraid it would be to my  
Cost, being forc'd to be silent, or else I  
must Dye; and yet I must of force Dye  
if I held my Tongue. So possess'd was I  
with Anger, and so restrain'd by Fear, that  
all my past Pleasures were my present  
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Torment. Wanton Love is not for Vertuous Persons, none but Lew'd and Vicious Men are engag'd in those Affairs. And though there were no Law to check and deter us from these Follies, yet the ill consequences of them are enough to restrain us: and if we could remove the vain Appearances of Pleasure, we should not be bewitcht by them, but find their Deceitfulness and our own Blindness in pursuing them. In short, I determin'd to abandon her when I understood she had deserted me; and resolv'd, with the hazard of my Head, to acquaint my Master with the whole Transaction, giving him an account of the frequent Visits of the Gallant, and his Obstinacy in continuing them; adding some of my own Jealous Thoughts thereunto. Upon hearing the whole matter, he was of Opinion that he must turn off his Miss, concluding for certain, that the Gentleman would not have the confidence so much as to look at her, had he not received some Encouragement. I commended his Design, but doubting I should endanger my self thereby, since if she perceived herself detected she would certainly discover me, I took occasion to inform him, that she did not in the least comply with his Desires, but that he was such an Impudent

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Fellow, that she could not be rid of him. He rested satisfied with this, and resolv'd to fall severely upon the daring Rival.

I am sensible there was very little reason in what I said, being indeed always of a contrary Opinion ; for I believe few Men persevere in Courting a Mistress, without receiving some Favours, and having Hopes and Confidence of attaining their Desires : But mark I beseech you, how important a thing it is to be counted a Fool, since it serves to perswade Men to believe any Falshood that he shall advance. If *Plato*, and the Seven Wise Men of *Greece*, had told my Master the same Story I did, he would have suspected they design'd to banter him, and that they did it to make Ostentation of their Wit ; but hearing it from a Person who he thought had not Capacity enough to forge a Lye (as if that was so difficult a matter) he had no Suspicion that I would abuse him.

Now my Master was somewhat Cowardly and Timorous in the matter of Fighting and Bullying, and therefore arm'd all his Six Servants, like so many Lions, to guard his Body ; and coming to the Street of the *Unhappy Fair One*, we perceived the Gallant waiting with another, Muffled in their Cloaks, at the door of her House : I drew

drew near to observe which was he, without making any sign to the rest of the Detachment : I made up to him, and at the first approach gave him a handsome Cut over the Pate ; for I had two Advantages over him, one in being Injur'd, and therefore Jealous, and consequently Revengeful ; and another, that I began the Attack. The Squadron hereupon coming up, we push'd them on all sides, and having given them many dangerous Wounds, (being Seven against Two) we left them for Dead and retir'd to our Lodgings.

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### C H A P. VIII.

*He is made a Judge, and gives an account of his Male Administration in that Office with several other Diverting Amusements*

**M**Y Master, as I have already observed, being Wealthy, had therefore the Opinion of a Prudent Modest Man ; so that the very Persons who assisted him in this Exploit blam'd his Conduct, that he should attempt the Murdering of two Gentlemen only upon my Information ; yet nobody reproach'd me because I only acted as a Natural. And thus I, for

having

having the repute of a Fool, was excus'd, because I was so; and my Master who was counted Wise Suffer'd in his Reputation because of his Wisdom; when we began to cool, we seriously consulted what course it was best to take to secure our selves, in regard the Wounded or Dead were of the best Families in the City: after several warm Debates and various Votes, my Opinion at length prevail'd, that it would be most expedient to leave *Salamanca*, and to keep a good Correspondence in that City, that we might be acquainted how Affairs went. Pursuant to these Resolutions we had Mules provided the same Night; and Fear adding Wings to our Flight, we arriv'd in a few days at a Village belonging to the Count my Master's Brother, who at that time resided there. Now though he design'd not to be long Absent from Court, yet the Delicousness of the Place so much charin'd him, that he was unwilling to depart. This good Gentleman us'd all manner of Recreations, and had for that purpose, Dogs for Hunting, and likewise a Library of Valuable Books of all Sciences, for Entertaining the Contemplative Readers. His Gardens were very curious, with thick and well shaded Groves of all sorts of Trees.

In this Enchanting Place we retir'd ourselves, without acquainting the Count with the occasion of our coming hither: I was am now, and ever shall be, greatly inclin'd to the Conversation of Ladies, (tho' I was so lately in the ready way to make Fool of my self thereby.) I admir'd the Rivers, Fountains, Flowers, and Fruits of this Earthly Paradise; but yet I thought there wanted the Soul of all, namely the appearance of some gentile Females, who like the Sun, might add Lustre to the Glories of it; so that I soon grew weary of this Wilderness-Solitude; yet calling to mind the Mischiefs and Dangers which had befallen me by being concern'd with this brittle Ware I began to Philosophize and conclude that the greatest Human Happiness was for a Man to enrich himself with Learning and Virtue: For tho' other Things make a Fair Appearance yet they are not durable; neither will they render a Man truly Happy; and tho' they be pleasant in the Enjoyment, yet a Man pays twice for them; once by fearing that he cannot long possess them; and then by the real Loss of them: For this Edifice being built upon the Follies and Frailties of Women, is supported only by Pillars of Glass, and must necessarily

soon fall, expectation of them. I took in the Countess all Hours Night; me by in play as B nothing c suits our the most since know acquaint aquires of one, he ha ther, I it not for C come for gress, an very of t Count ha ing gain earned, looks, discourse Honour this Jou Man, ling his



soon fall, and thereby disappoint the Expectations of those who are most fond of them.

I took great Delight to lock up my self in the Count's Library, where I pass'd away all Hours of the Day, and many of the Night; smiling at such as would divert me by inviting me to go a Hunting, to play at Billiards, or Cards; for certainly nothing can be Pleasure to us, but what suits our Inclination. I counted Books the most discreet Company in the World, since knowing so much, they never acquaint a Man with any Thing till he inquires of them; and being wearied with one, he has fresh Entertainment from another, I studying only for Recreation and not for Ostentation. But the time being come for our Return home from our Progress, and the Danger over, by the Recovery of the Persons we had wounded, the Count hasten'd us away; whereupon having gain'd a General Opinion of being learned, by retiring my self alone among books, I took an Opportunity thus to discourse the Count. 'My Lord, your Honour may be very well pleas'd with this Journey, since your Brother, good Man, has no need of any farther puzzling his Brains with the Brangles of the  
'Schools,

' Schools ; for though his Modesty and  
 ' Retiredness may seem disadvantageous  
 ' to him ; yet I assure your Lordship, he  
 ' has a most Profound Wit, and through-  
 ' ly digests what he Reads, having made  
 ' a farther Proficiency in Learning with-  
 ' in Three Years than others have done  
 ' in Thirty.

' Near this Place is the Monastery of  
 ' *Irache*, where he may take his Degree  
 ' of Batchelor of Arts, and by continu-  
 ' ing in this Solitude he will be dis-  
 ' verted from following his Pleasures, and  
 ' so may improve daily in Knowledge  
 ' whereas if he return to *Salamanca*, he  
 ' will hazard the losing of what he has  
 ' gain'd in this Retiredness. The Council  
 approved of my Advice, and so we spent  
 Two Years in this Solitary Life, where  
 I learn'd enough of the Civil Law, and  
 too much of other Reading, and having  
 the Opinion of being a Man of Letters  
 which I confirm'd by often uttering cer-  
 tain Sentences of *Cato*, and other sages, who  
 Philosophers, they began to call me Doctor's Hun-  
 tor in the Count's House, and us'd it long my  
 frequently, that I was now known by the  
 other Name than Doctor *Cenudo*, and  
 while after we returning to our Centre  
 the Court, I took my Place of Doctor  
 if I really had been so.

At this time His Majesty honoured a Gentleman, a Friend of the Count's, with the dignity of a *Corrigidor*, of one of the most Illustrious Cities in *Spain* (an Officer deputed by the King over most of the chief Towns in that Kingdom, with Powder little differing from that of a Lord-Mayor: These always continue Three Years, and most commonly are Lawyers.) This *Corrigidor* was made to be Governing, as might be perceived an Hundred Leagues off: For having a sufficient Estate to maintain himself according to his Quality, he wanted nothing now but Honour, and to be a Governor; and was extreame ambitious of showing his Authority over the *Concejalldes*, or petty Judges; but dreaded to be attended with Learned *Tenientes* or Deputies, who would controul him, and command all. He discovered his Fears to the Count, who in Conclusion propos'd my Person to him for One of the Two Offices, extolling my Modesty and Retirement, which suited well with the *Corrigidor's* Humour; nay, I was told, that among my other Good Qualities he had acquainted him that I was a Fool: Scarce and the Count pronounc'd that Word, but he replied there was no Man fitter for his purpose than my self, he having an Aversion

sion to your Pragmatical Pedants, who would be prying too nicely into his Conduct. In short he granted him the Office on my Account, returning the Count a Thousand Thanks for having recommended to him a Person so extremely well qualified in all Respects.

Behold me now an *Alcalde* or Judge of a Populous City, and observe that the Reputation of a Fool was more serviceable to me, than the Title of Batchelor or Doctor of the Civil Law. Is it then such a Disgrace to be reckoned a Fool? I know an Hundred of my Acquaintance would be glad to be counted so that they might attain to my Preferment; and I am satisfied that Folly is not only a very important Quality for procuring a Man Honour and Dignity, but likewise for the Peaceable and Happy Enjoyment of them, as you will see presently.

The other Office of *Teniente* or Deputy, was given to an able, but formal Coxcomb, much wedded to the Letter of the Law, as well as to his own Humour; a Man, whose Saying upon all Occasions was, Sir, *This is Law, and I will abide by it.* This precise Gentleman was not chosen by the *Corrigidor*, but was put into the Place by the express Command of a Persecution as



on of Honour, from whom our Govern-  
or gain'd his Preferment. We came short-  
ly after to the Place of our Residence,  
where I soon got the knack of talking of  
residents, Decrees, and other Trifles be-  
longing to my Office, which the Industry  
(not to say Knavery) of the Solicitors  
and Attorneys soon brought me acquaint-  
ed with, who therefore moulded me as  
Wax, so that I was all Complaisance, and  
could deny them nothing: With this easy  
temper, and winking at all their Exact-  
ions and Exorbitancies I had Business e-  
nough, and gained as much as might have  
serv'd me and my Companion, whom they  
call'd King *Don Pedro*, because of his Gra-  
tity and Zeal in executing the extremity  
of Justice, which made People avoid him  
as much as they do Virtue and Honesty.  
You may laugh at my Folly if you  
please, in favouring of my own Servants  
and punishing of others; yet you may  
likewise observe, that it is necessary  
to be a Fool, even in the Administration  
of Offices, which require so much Pru-  
dence and Discretion. True Wisdom and  
Policy is to be pliable, and to comply with  
the Times; for you cannot imagine that  
I was willing, nor of so strong a Consti-  
tution as to be sacrificed to the Malice  
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and Revenge of my Solicitors and Attorneys, although I was brought up with Onions and Garlick. Here I first became sensible that Power and Authority were great Enemies to Virtue : I have already related how I became improv'd in the Solitudes wherein I lately Resided ; how Reserved I was, what a Contemner of all sensual Delights, and Enemy to Pleasure, but now finding my self to be a Man in Authority I was extreamly Elevated : No one knows what it is to be an ordinary Judge of a Populous City ; I thought my self a great Man, and my Head grew giddy with Honour, so that I was in great Danger of a Fall.

The first Vice I found my self guilty of was Pride ; I was sparing of my Hat wherein my Natural Frown was a great Advantage to me. To all the People of the Town I was a Lyon, but to my Acquaintance a Lamb : I then abandoned the Rod of Justice, the Badge of my Office for the Follies of *Venus* ; I went the Rounds in the Night, not to apprehend Thieves and Murtherers, but to deliver up my self to She-Robbers and Murtherers ; yet this kind of Debauchery soon became nauseous to me, I did not like the easiness of it ; none of this kind of Car-

le daring to refuse to comply with my  
Humour; I was always best pleas'd where  
I met with the greatest Difficulties: I aim-  
ed at Impossibilities, and pursued them  
with the greatest Eagerness: How many  
Females have I subdued with my Staff of  
Authority! How many have complied  
out of Fear! I am asham'd to relate what  
Pains I took to gain my Ends where I  
found the Strongest Opposition; and jud-  
ged such Conquests only to be Honoura-  
ble, and to Crown the Conqueror. No  
House denied me Entrance, tho' never so  
strongly barricado'd; for I either pretend-  
ed that I search'd for a Criminal; or that  
I must examine the Matter concerning a  
Fact which had never been committed: I  
remember I once carried away the Hus-  
band of an handsome Woman Prisoner,  
who I had a mind to court, upon pretence  
of some Suspicion I had of him, and de-  
tain'd him as long as I pleas'd, that he  
might not hinder my free access to his  
house. All these Extravagancies my Of-  
ficers cryed up as Gallant Exploits; com-  
mending instead of admonishing me to for-  
bear such Practices; who no doubt allow  
them, because all such Fellows are ge-  
nerally of the same Humour, and approve  
these Actions as being themselves guilt-

100 *The Lucky Idiot : Or,*

I was very Expensive, and thereby gain'd the Affection of the lewd part of the People of the City ; as Vintners, Innkeepers, Gamesters, and all that licentious Rabble, who give or take away a Man's Good Name as it stands with their Interest. The Gentlemen never complain'd of me, though they had Reason for it but were unwilling to stain their own Honour, being not faultless themselves, by publishing my Dishonour ; so that I committed a Thousand Insolencies without receiving the least Check or Controul. How pernicious a thing is it to choose Foolish, ignorant, and Immoral Persons into Offices ? It is like throwing Poyson into a Publick Fountain ; every Man has a Share of Death, and all partake of the Mischiefs he commits. But since you may long to hear how I came off with my Office, you must know that the Solicitors and Attorneys are the Persons that represent the Conduct of the Judges to be either just or unjust ; and having laid so many Obligations upon them, you may be sure they became my fast Friends, and magnified my worst Actions, instead of accusing me of Male-Administration. Finally at Three Years End I laid down my Employment with the good Opinion of all, and indiffer-

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ent Rich ; but my supercilious Companion on the contrary Poor, and with an ill Report. Is it not profitable think you to be a Fool ? Possibly you will tell me, I was not so in this Affair, but prudent and discreet ; you have some Reason in what you say ; for it was Discretion not to contradict my *Corrigidor* in any thing he should command tho' never so unjust, because he was my Superior, and I took up that Office with a full purpose to obey him. Again, what Wise Man would not be complaisant to *Alguaziles* and Attorneys ? To comply with their Requests was Policy not Folly ; but call it what you will, I liv'd happily and easily by this Management.

I presented my Person at *Madrid*, and gave such a good Account of my Proceedings, that I gain'd the Repute of an honest and upright Judge. Wherefore the *Corrigidor* employ'd all the Interest he had at Court to procure from his Majesty a more profitable Employment for me : In the mean time I lodg'd at his House, sat at his Table, was allow'd his Coach, and liv'd like a Prince. Ambition now began to disquiet me, for tho' I had a Natural Aversion to living in a Garret, yet this pompous kind of Life ruin'd my Humility, and I began to indulge my self with the Flat-

series which my Power bestowed upon me ; I did not think I liv'd that Day wherein I did not command. At the Fame of my Folly *Corrigidors* came by Dozens offering me the same Sallery my own had given me, if I would serve them in the like Capacity. But I, that must needs be a Fool upon Record, rejected their Proposals, and fell to begging a settled Place at Court, wherein I was favour'd with all the Power my *Corrigidor* had ; and tho' it may not be so proper, yet I'll tell you of a Friend, who I hope will not divulge it, I had an Advantage of all other Pretenders, which I merited only by my Folly. For they trusting to the Strength of their Deserts, were not so diligent to oblige those from whom they expected Kindness judging that they who were to honour them, were sensible of their Merits by looking in their Faces : My Friend, who does it signify that thou art worthy and deserving, if thou art not known to be so ? Proclaim thy Gifts and Parts that thou mayst be taken notice of, or else never pretend to obtain thy Ends.

In the mean time I learn'd the greatest piece of Court Policy, which is Flattery and Courtesy ; I meditated an Hour every Morning before I went out of my Lodging

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what new Methods I should take to oblige and sweeten those from whom I expected Kindness : I was the first since *Adam* that persuaded great Persons, that they resembled the Gods in bestowing Favours without any Hopes of Recompence. Another time I thus address'd a Nobleman : ' My Lord, your Excellency, by reason of your Dignity and Magnanimous Temper, has a strong Obligation to be kind to me, since it is known you delight in being beneficial to all Mankind ; so that now I have given your Honour an Opportunity to exercise that Admirable Virtue on my Behalf. By these and such other Encomiums I persuaded them that those Persons represented Princes most, who were most favourable to their Servants.

By the Bribes and Presents I gave I was reckon'd a Fool by those who were so themselves, because I seldom presented things to be Eaten ; though they told me I should never have good Success but by such means ; for such Gifts cost little, yet were very acceptable ; I was always of a different Opinion, and would never present any thing but what should be long in View, and represent the Donor to their Memory, for which reason they are call'd

Presents ; things edible are not of this quality, for they must be presently spent, or else will be spoil'd. One time I remember, I forgot this necessary Precept ; for staying in a Drawing Room to wait upon a Lady for whom I had a Violent Passion, a *Duenna* came out to entertain me, and another Gentleman who was an Assistant to me in these Adventures. The *Duenna* began the Conversation, asking him what he had eaten for Dinner, what Cook he kept, and other Questions of this Nature ; the Gentleman, who thought himself very discreet, began to invent Twenty Dainty Dishes never thought on before ; assuring her he had a Cook who made most incomparable Pasties of the Sinews of Legs of Veal, Breasts of Capons, Partridges, Pidgeons, and Turtles, so that nothing in the World was more delicious ; he had scarce ended his Discourse, when the *Duenna* whose Chops watered after these Pasties, desired him to send her one for a Taste : The Coxcomb promis'd her One, being glad she believ'd him ; and judg'd him a Man of an excellent Palate, while he pretended to find out a Cook to verify his Sham-Story. I that was a Fool came next under Examination, and being frightened to think how lamely my Companion

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would come off, told her, I kept a Cook Maid, who knew how to make admirable Saffages, and a Sallad, which might be given to the Dead; wherein there was some Truth, since no living Body could endure the Smell of it. I was in hopes to have turn'd her Stomach with this course Fare, but as I am always unfortunate with *Duenna's*, she told me she long'd for some of these Saffages and Sallad; I promis'd her them, and honestly comply'd with my Word; but doubting that if the Saffages should appear cleanly she would be dunning me for more, I sent a Servant to buy some of those nasty ones which are sold to Porters and Carmen in the Streets. He carried them, and whether it was her Greediness, or my Commendation of them, or else my Misfortune, every Saturday-Morning I received a Message from the *Duenna* with her earnest desire to me to accommodate her with more of the same Saffages: I was very sensible of this Weekly Tax, which through my inadvertency I had brought upon my self, and thought it an infringement of my Natural Liberty to be thus impos'd upon; so that to free my self from this Inconvenience I ordered my Servant One Saturday to bring me a whole Hogs Paunch,

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stuffed naturally, without emptying  
Guts ; he did so, and they seeming  
low, I fill'd up the Vacancy with Garlic  
Onions, and a few unsavoury Herbs, and  
so sent them admirably well season'd ;  
the Saturday following, notwithstanding  
all this Precaution, I had another Request  
that I would be so kind as to oblige her  
with some more of the same sort. I had  
then no other Shift to make but to assure  
her that the Cook-maid that made the  
dy'd the Night before.

Observe here what craving impudent  
Wretches these *Duennâes* are ; Half a  
Flour after she dispatch'd another Mes-  
senger to me to know where this Cook  
was Buried, because she design'd to fetch  
certain Masses, together with her Ser-  
vants, to deliver her Soul out of Purga-  
ry, and that they might Honour the Corpse  
of a Person, who understood how to make  
such excellent Sallages ; adding her ear-  
nest Desire, that if she had left the Receipt  
behind her how they were to be made,  
would do her the Favour to bestow it on  
her : I was thereupon compell'd to make  
a Receipt for Sallages of whatever came  
into my Head, and to send it to her, ac-  
quainting her likewise that the Cook-  
maid was already buried, and that she

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need not trouble her self to say any Masses for her. However I am to this very Day in Fear least she should send to know whether the Author of these Sallages be not yet risen again.

My ingenious Presents had better Success, which sometimes cost me less than if they had been to be eaten, and are soon forgot, and yet were generally as effectual to my purpose as if I had set a Page to be always putting them in mind of my business. Once I presented a Pair of Spectacles to a Minister of State, who was short sighted, affirming that they were sent me by my Brother from *Italy*, as the greatest Curiosity that was to be found in those Parts, which wonderfully preserv'd the Sight, and were the same Spectacles which King *Don Ferdinando* wore in his Conquest of *Spain*; I procur'd likewise the Case to be made Old Fashion'd, and very Curious, which added much to the Value of the Spectacles; For if you look on a Horse without his Trappings, tho' swifter than those of the Sun, and more mettlesome than *Bucephalus* the Steed of *Alexander* the Great, he would appear but like a Mill-Horse; whereas if he were richly harnets'd, though as wretched as *Don Quixot's* Dapple, he would be esteem-

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ed like *Bellerophon's Pegasus*, or the Flying Horse.

Nay it hath sometimes been my Good Fortune that an *Italian Sallad*, which I have sent to some Persons, that cost me not above Six Pence, hath been as acceptable, as if I had presented them with a Camel loaden with Pheasants. Moreover nothing is more pleasing to Women than Flowers, Patches, Ribbons, Paints, and Beauty-Washes: If you are not of this Opinion, inquire of the most complaisant Ladies of this Age, and they will be so ingenious as to tell you, that were it not for these Charms and Artifices no Man would hardly look them in the Face. This ignorant Minister put on my Spectacles, and perswaded himself that he could see almost through a Stone-Wall with them; and was as thankful for them, as if I had renewed his Sight; assuring me that he had my Affairs in his Eyes, as having my Spectacles continually before them. This then may properly be call'd a Present, that is never absent from the Sight of a great Man to whom it is given. You must remark, That those *Spaniards* who are dim-sighted, wear their Spectacles tyed, on all Day long wheresoever they go.

Another Nobleman, on whom depend-

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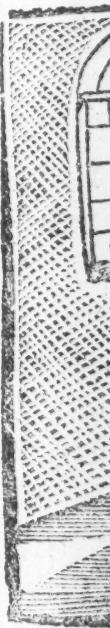


ed my Hopes, had a great Opinion of his own Handlomeſs, though he was a skinny, lockram jaw'd Perſon, long viſag'd, and whoſe Cheek-bones ſtood out ſo much that they affronted his Beauty. I having an account of a Merchant who had ſallie Looking-Glaſſes that would ſhew Twenty different Faces, choſe out One amongſt them that made a Man ſeem to have a Round Plump Face; and was imbelliſh'd with a curious Ebony Frame Inlaid with Ivory: This I preſented him with, as the Trueſt that was ever made, proteſting it was the Looking-Glaſs at which the *Cava* uſed to ſit Two Houſe every Morning dreſſing her ſelf, before ſhe went to enchant King *Don Rodrigo*. By the way, the true Name of this Lady was *Florinda*, Daughter to Count *Julian*, who, to revenge himſelf of the King for debauching this his Daughter, betray'd the Kingdom of *Spain* to the *Moors*, by whom ſhe was called *Cava*, which in *Arabick* ſignifies a Whore. This Glaſs I perſwaded the Lord was lately found in the Enchanted Cave at *Toledo*, by the diligence of a Profound Magician, and was a Rarity worthy only to be plac'd in ſuch a Noble Palace as his Excellency's, who was ſuch an Adorer of Antiquities. He accepted it with a ſmiling Countenance, and

and looking in it found himself fat and plump, and as though I had amended his Phiz, gave me hearty Thanks for it, telling me, no Gift could have been more acceptable to him, which I easily believ'd because it flatter'd his Vanity in what he had most Occasion for.

Buy Looking-Glasses then, and present them to your Acquaintance, since they much resemble some pretended Friends which flatter like Looking-Glasses, and make you believe you are Full-fac'd and Prudent; when you are Lean, and Foolish in your Actions. I understood afterwards that his Lordship consulted his Perfection Four times a day, and was so pleas'd, that he declar'd this only was a True Looking-Glass, and that the right making of them was never thoroughly understood since the Days of King *Rodrigo*; all Arts being so adulterated that they had not the Ingenuity to make a Faithful Glass in all *Spain*; so manifest it is that nothing appears true to us but what agrees with our Fancy. You may say I was a Fool in presenting a Looking-Glass to a Nobleman, and that a fine Horse had been a more proper Present; you don't understand yourself, for a Horse would not be a Present, in regard he would not always be present,

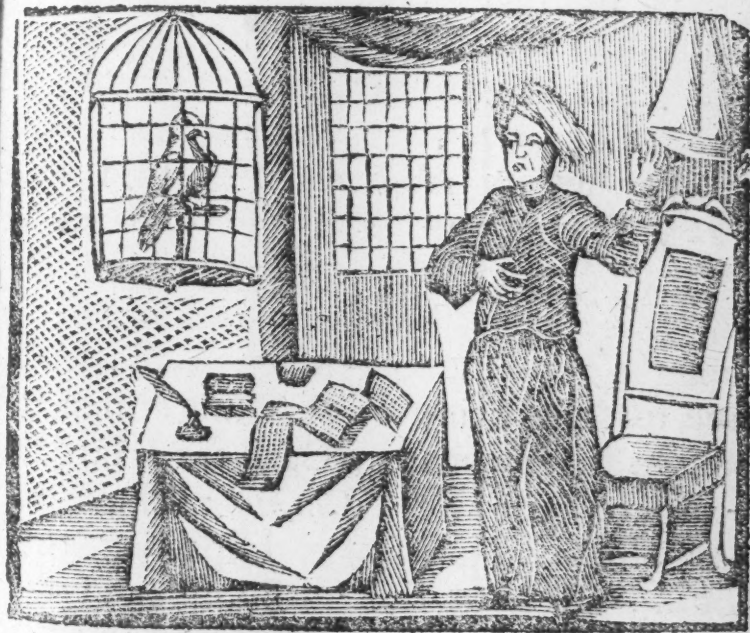
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nor put him in mind of my Business, because he generally went abroad in a Coach or a Chair; but the Glass was present Four times a Day, so that my *Cava* was a continual Intercessor for me. If these Contrivances pass with you for Follies you your self are but a Fool; what do you think of a Present I once made of a Clock with an Alarm that disturb'd the whole Parish; was not this a good Remembrancer at all Hours?



Yet no Present, in my Opinion, hit so luckily as one that I made to a great Statesman, who was extream Proud, though of very

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very mean Parentage. Fortune, you must understand, rais'd him to Preferment to discover her Power in advancing Men who are little or nothing worth, to Dignity and Honour. He had his clear Ascendency from a Cellar of Water belonging to his Grandfather ; but he forgot these Waters were a Reproach to his Birth, and could never see a good Face of his own in them, having himself a very ill one, which had still imprinted on it the Curses that his Grandfather gave to his Afs, who carried his Water-Pots. Coming by chance into a Broker's Shop where a Parrot was to be sold, I began to bargain for it, and questioning its Abilities they told me it was a Young one, and newly began to speak, not knowing how to say any thing but *Waterman, Waterman* ; I presently thought I had found a sufficient Mortification for the Pride of this Statesman ; I bought it, and made a Cage for it large enough to have held a *Duenna* : I have told you already that I was impatient till I could arrive to live in Pomp and Grandure ; for this reason I presented this Bird to my Politician, as the best qualified and most witty Parrot in the World ; the Cage likewise spoke a Thousand Marvels in its Favour. He was very thankful, and the

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Bird discovered its pregnant Understanding, by giving Lessons of Humility daily to this *Lucifer* in a Gown.

Every time he came home, it had a *Memento Mori* in its Mouth, receiving him always with *Waterman, Waterman*, which it repeated with much quickness; now never uttering any other Word, he was much concern'd, and possess'd with an Opinion that some Angel spoke to him by the Mouth of a Parrot: He then began to tremble, chang'd the Scene of his Conversation, and laid aside his haughty Carriage and Looks: Finally the Man was Converted by the Lectures of the Parrot; he already gave Audience with more Facility, treated People with less Disdain, and spoke with less Scorn, particularly to me, to whom he often said he had an especial Obligation; and though I knew for what he would never acquaint me with it. A few Days after it chang'd its Note by means of another Parrot at a Neighbour's House, of whom it learn'd to say, *Ah Poor Parrot, who comes there, who comes there?* However the Master lost Nothing of his former Credulity, but believed it was a good Spirit Cloath'd in Green, and attributed that change of his Note to his own Amendment, and Reformation from his

his Pride; so that the Parrot never uttered any thing but he thought there was some Mystery in it. I must needs confess that rash Folly might have return'd upon my own Head if the Truth of it had been discover'd: Trust not therefore in such Follies unless you have a great deal of Courage; or that you think a Fool may venture to do any thing; for in short flatter'd with Injuries, and gain'd Favour by *Affronts*.

But yet methought I was out of my Element, whilst I was not in Love. The Suing for an Office, and the Courting a Lady are so much alike that it was easy for me to pass from one to the other; with Flatteries we sollicite for Employments; with Flatteries we attack Ladies; these with Gifts we approach, those with Presents to gain an Office the least Qualifications are deserving them, because Blind Fortune disposes of them; neither is it of any Importance to the Ladies whether we do serve them or not, because 'tis either good or ill Fortune that makes us gain or lose them. I fell desperately in love with a Young Lady of a Noble Family, and yet more Rich than Noble. She was the Delight and Care of her Parents, who had no other Child to divert their Affections

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and bred up under her Mother with Mar-  
malade and Carroway Comfits, so that her  
little Heart was infected with Coyneſs and  
Diſdain: The Fame of her great Fortune  
occasioned her being Courted by a nume-  
rous Company of Adorers of different  
Ranks and Qualities, as Lawyers, Knights  
of the Golden Fleece, and Gentlemen of  
Good Eſtates; but ſhe affronted and baſ-  
ſed them all with her Quirks and Repar-  
tees. An *Alcalde* or Judge of *Sevil*, a  
Man of Senſe and a great Gallant, ſhe diſ-  
carded, telling him ſhe was reſolv'd ne-  
ver to bring her ſelf under the Power of  
Juſtice. Another Gentleman ſhe diſ-  
patch'd, becauſe when he came to viſit  
her he always ask'd how ſhe did, as if ſhe  
did not look well, or agreeable. She ob-  
ſerv'd another Pretender to pull out his  
Spectacles in the Play-Houſe to look to-  
ward the Apartment of the Women; and  
being Jealous ask'd him what he look'd at?  
Who to excuſe himſelf reply'd, *Madam,*  
*I do not look at the Perfections, but at the*  
*Defects of theſe Ladies; Nay then,* ſaid  
ſhe with a diſdainful Countenance, *I will*  
*never have a Husband who is ſo ſollicitous in*  
*ſpying out the Faults of others that he diſco-*  
*vers his own; for I had never known that you*  
*were ſhort-ſighted, but for your Curioſity to*  
*pry*

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*pry into the Blemishes of those Ladies.* Another valued himself for being a Poet and making Verses ; she sharply replied, she could never Love that Man who esteem'd Lying and Flattery to be Virtues.

In this Trifling manner she wasted her Youth till she arriv'd to Forty Years of Age, her Father and Mother dying by being tired out with her Whimsies, rather than of their Years. And now Old Time began to threaten her that if she dallied any longer with these Delays she her self should be forc'd to sue for an Husband, not without the hazard of being repuls'd. She therefore admitted Visits from ingenious Men, and was ambitious to be counted a Wit ; and that she might be esteem'd an Oracle, gave out that the most Learned Men came daily to consult with her about their most difficult Affairs. I then made my Addresses to her under the notion of a Grave Philosopher ; and to set off my self to the best Advantage, repeated Three or Four Sonnets which I had compos'd in my Younger Days in Praise of Black Eyes and white Hands, and uttering very modestly a few Sentences out of the Ancient Sages I was reckoned as wise as *Cato* ; but I was sorry to find her not witty ; for though I always had a good

Opinion of my self, I could not have my flattery being in danger that are in the world was how being neither altogether when the necessity, and her. ' Madam and Wife this, the son and their own If I did are difficult what I acquainting to should only the poor lov'd you saw and honourable ther would flattery ; not have due to you



Opinion of discreet Women, yet I would not have them Wiser than my self; Equality being always most agreeable, since we are in danger to be over reach'd by those that are more subtle than our selves. I was however fearful of displeasing her, being neither deeply smitten with her, nor altogether disliking her: One Evening, when the Darkeness usually occasions Boldness, and hides Blushes I thus address'd her.

' Madam, the difference between Fools and Wise Men, in my Opinion, is only this, that the latter act according to reason and Ingenuity, and the former by their own weak and vain Imaginations. If I did not perswade my self that you are discreet I should forbear to declare what I have been long since desirous to acquaint you with, for Fear that, according to the Opinion of the Vulgar, you should call that an Injury which is really the product of my Affection. I have lov'd you tenderly since the first time I saw and spoke with you, but with Honourable and Virtuous Intentions; another would say, It is the effect of my Desliny; but I do not, because I would not have Fortune have the Praise that is due to your Beauty and my Passion, since  
your

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‘ your Excellent Perfections are sufficient to procure Adoration from all Mankind. She having the Vanity to believe that the World accounted her a Doctress, and thinking me to be a Doctor seem’d very well pleas’d with my Compliment at that Time, and to Appearance Matters stood very fair between us.

A Gentleman of my Acquaintance, who us’d generally to accompany me in my Visits went One day to see her by himself. He was a Person of a good Wit, pleasant in Conversation, and very ingenious in Discourse ; they talk’d of several Matters, the Entertainment being like an *Italian* Sallad, a great deal in the whole and a little of every Thing, but amongst all there was no mention made of me so that I perceiv’d her Kindness was only Civility to me, and that she had no real Favour for me. . Being concern’d, I had many Guesses at the Occasion of it, and at length concluded she did not think me so Rich as her self; for oftentimes Love is so much a Friend to Equality, that it desireth the same in Wealth, as well as in other things. However I was not jealous that her rejecting me was for want of Understanding or Handsomeness, being sensible, that as to Beauty, every one esteem

the same as it agrees with his own Inclination ; some reckon a Woman handsome if she be Wise ; others account her Wise if she be silent, and commend that for a Virtue, which proceeds only from Necessity, and not knowing what to say. Some value long Faces, others Round ; some Black Eyes, others a delicate Mouth, and some are admired as if they were Beautiful as *Paris*, or *Helen* of *Troy*, who are really no better than Doudies, or fulsome Kit-Wits, thin-Wenchies.

It vex'd me that I had made a Declaration of my Love, since I had met with an affront, or a Repulse, as I imagined. At length I thought of a Plot whereby I might make Trial of the reasonableness of my Suspicion, than procure any Love from her by it ; I loved her, but was not enamoured of her ; I had a Kindness for her, but did not doat on her ; and being drag'd at her Sights, I thought if I could make her acknowledge she had a respect for me I should gain the Field, and have the Glory of being Victor. I therefore feign'd my self sick, and began to complain that I had an Hundred Vipers gnawing my Heart, using such other Frangish Speeches as intolerable Pains commonly suggest. I gave strict Command to my

Servants to let no body come into my Lodgings, and lock'd my self up Four Days in my Chamber the better to carry on the Fraud ; so that the whole Town rang of my Indisposition, and at length some of my Acquaintance came to visit me, with Three or Four able Physicians from the Court. These good Men felt my Pulse, inspected my Urine, and by the relation that my Attendants gave them of my Groans and Unquietness, they concluded, yea swore, my Disease was Mortal. This made all believe it, and indeed I could not tell what to think of it, for though I found my self in perfect Health, yet who could believe he was so when Three or Four Grave Men, who resembled Old Time by their Age and Beards, did so solemnly averr the contrary. This put such a Doubt into my Mind that the Day following I ordered my Servants to carry *Jacomo* my Pages Water to the Doctors, and shew it them instead of mine, he being the most brisk, and lively Boy in the Whole Town. Upon View of the Urinal these Learned Physicians shrugged up their Shoulders, and with grievous Sighs declar'd, that the Distemper got ground of me, and Tyranniz'd over my Heart daily more and more. I then

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began to consider that my Doctors were weak and not I, understanding no more than what my Attendants told them of my Distemper.

When I perciev'd I was well, I resolv'd to prosecute the Imposture, screeking and roaring out so loud that the whole Street heard me, and among them my Wise Mistress too, who believ'd me to be very ill, without any Suspicion to the contrary, yet was not so kind as to send to know how I did. Do but observe now what Effect the Inequality of Riches has upon Mankind. I began to think that I had been sick long enough, since the Physicians had given me over, and that it was time to make my Will. I desir'd an Honest Friend of mine to fetch a Scrivener, who being come, and having writ down the usual Pious Preface, I thereby bequeath'd to my Lady *Senioria Donna Temeraria* the Value of an Hundred Thousand Duckets in Money and Rich Goods, adding this Clause with my own Hand; *For the Tender Love I have born her, and for the Favours which I have received at her Hands.* This I deliver'd to him with a Profound Sigh. Master Doctor, said my Friend, extremely surpriz'd, Pray what Effects do you leave for the Performance of this Testament? Be silent Sir I beseech you, Quoth I, all I have consider'd how to dispose of what remains; I am satisfied there's more than enough in this Inventory to pay all the Legacies contain'd therein; and therewith I gave him a large Catalogue of Valuable Goods. For this Action I was deem'd not only a Fool but a Madman.

The Scrivener was no sooner got out of my Lodgings but he hastned immediately to my Mistress, to demand a Reward for the good News he brought; advising her to cause some Masses to be said that I might be carried to Heaven, or at least out of this world. My Mistress understanding this excess of Love call'd her Chair and Servants, and with-

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out delaying a Moment, or any consideration of her Quality, and the Indecency of her Proceeding, was brought immediately to my Chamber; and as if I had really been her Husband, coming to my Bed-side began to embrace me, besprinkling my Face with her Tears, thinking my Sickness was occasioned by her Disdain, and that her Kindness would recover me : Ah vain Women, why should we not treat you as you do us ? Alas ! Am I sick ? Shall I Die for Love ? Are you in your Wits ? Are you the Discreet Lady ? We shall see anon : I suffered her to use her whining Expressions, to cry, and commit other Extravagancies, pretending my self so near Death that I did not know her.



There were at this time in the Room a great number of my Friends and Acquaintance, and this seeing a fit Opportunity for my Revenge, I suddenly threw the Cloaths off the Bed, and stepped

limbly into the Floor ready dress'd, and very Gallant; and seating my self in a Chair spake thus to my Audience; 'Gentlemen, all this is no more than Drollery and an Amorous Stratagem; I only counterfeited Love; it was all but a Jest; I was bred up in *Madrid*, and not in the Forests of *Arcadia*, and have learn'd to avoid Misfortunes by other Mens Examples: This Lady, who for a Thousand Excellencies deserves Veneration, was the Idol of my Soul; I lov'd her sincerely and with an Honourable Design. Now while she suppos'd I was as Wealthy as her self she freely admitted my Addresses; but when she was inform'd that my Estate was not equal, she withdrew from me a proportionable Quantity of her Love; I resent'd this Usage, and being curious to examine into the cause of this Alteration, that a Correspondence so well setled should be so quickly broken off, I resolv'd on this Course to find out the Truth; I pretended I was sick at Heart, yet have ever found my self sound, for though it hath sometimes been wounded, yet slighting hath cur'd it; Love requires Love, and Contempt procures Contempt; I was pleas'd with her, but not in love with her; I had some Desires after her, yet was far from running mad, or hanging my self for her; in my Will I confess I left her my Heiress, but of Goods that I never was Owner of. No sooner did she believe me Liberal and Rich, but her Love, which had lain hid, re-kindled; yet do not suppose me Fortunate in my Loves, for I never was so. She did not pity me as I was Doctor *Cenudo*, but as being Rich she lamented me; it was not my Person but my Hundred Thousand Ducats that she was fond of. My Revenge might have gone farther, she being Rich, Beautiful and Prudent, but I should have pay'd dearly for it; no, I am not for a Wife that de-

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‘ despises me for the False Shadows of Wealth ; you  
 ‘ gave me the name of a Fool for my excessive  
 ‘ Love, but you condemn’d me without hearing ;  
 ‘ now judge what you please since I have so fully  
 ‘ declar’d my self.

I had scarce utter’d this, when the whole Company fell out a laughing, for till then Admiration had kept them silent. The *Fair Ingrate* was so confounded at this Transaction, that without speaking a Word, covering her Red Blushes with her Black Veil, she instantly retir’d. The Physicians came soon after to inquire if I were not yet expir’d, and finding me well, vow’d they’d burn their Physick-Books. But every one applauded the Humour for the most pleasant they had ever seen or heard of.

C H A P. IX.

*A Surprizing Adventure happen’d to him, which turn’d to his great Advantage, only for being reckoned a Fool.*

**F**ortune seem’d now to smile upon me, and to leave me to my self, since by my Folly I had been so successful, and enjoy’d so much Felicity : Yea that which appear’d at first Sight to be perilous and to my Loss, yet in the Conclusion turn’d to my great Profit and Advantage, as you shall hear instantly.

It happen’d then that being One Day in a Book-sellers Shop near *Sancta Cruce*, I saw an Ancient Priest drag’d along with much Rudeness by the Bay-liffs towards the Vicar’s Prison, and another Grave Man following him, and filling the Streets with his Clamour : *What horrid Impudence is this*, cries he

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you to treat a Father Confessor with so much Barbarity; there  
is no Justice therein, neither ought it to be suffer'd among  
Christians. I came running at the Noise, and was  
scarce got to them, when the Priest that was the  
Prisoner catch'd hold on me, saying, Doubtless it is  
he, although he has a Beard; I am confident it must be  
he. When I saw my self embrac'd and almost  
kiss'd by a Man who I guess'd was going to Prison  
for some heinous Crime, I imagin'd that he ac-  
cus'd me for being an Accomplice with him in it,  
and was extremely surpriz'd thereat; crying out,  
I vow Sir I am not in the least concern'd with you, for  
I am the Son of very Honest Parents, and would not  
be guilty of what you are charg'd with for all the World.

The peevish Old Man that made the Noise ask'd  
me who was my Father; I being very angry at that  
Question reply'd; 'My Father, Sir, was a very  
good Christian; and so he taught me to be. He  
was as good a Gentleman as any in the Kingdom,  
and no Man could speak any thing of him but  
what was just and Honourable; it is well known  
in Madrid what an upright Person the Licentiate  
Don Diego Hernandez was, and if I have any thing  
praise-worthy in me, it is in being the Son of such  
a good Father. I had scarce ended my Speech,  
but the same Old Man cry'd, He speaks Truth, it is  
he, no doubt it is the same; and coming nearer em-  
brac'd me again with much Kindness; I, who continu'd  
still in my Suspicion and Mistake, believ'd that they  
design'd to apprehend me, and that this seeming  
kindness was only to hold me fast, and not out  
of Kindness; I therefore began to exclaim, saying,  
I'll take my Oath it is a False Testimony, for I am as  
innocent as the Child unborn.

At this the Old Man that held me fell into a loud  
laughter, By this Outcry of his (says he) I should  
have known his Voice among a Quire of Singing Men,  
for such Foolish Expressions could proceed from none but

*Pedro Hernandez ; Hold Nephew, said the Priest,  
Leave your Bawling, and take notice that this Gentle  
man is your Father's Executor, who Dyed Judge of the*



*Contratation House of Sevil, and came to me to inquire  
what was become of you, and because I could not give  
him a good account of your Person they were carrying  
me to Jail upon your Account. I ask'd them Pardon  
for my Surprizal ; and after they had both em-  
brace'd me again, and sent away the Bayliffs I went  
to their Lodging, where being all Three seated  
the good Gentleman acquainted me, that my Fa-  
ther being very desirous of seeing Spain, and Dying  
where he was Born, had sued for, and obtained a  
Place in the Contratation House of Sevil ; to which  
end having embarked himself and put to Sea, in  
his Return home my Mother Dy'd, and he fell sick  
of a Violent Fever which in Three Days after his  
Landing at Sevil put an end to his Life, leaving me*

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in his Will One half of his Estate, the other half being to be divided between his other Two sons which he had in the *Indies*.

I threw'd my Resentment at so great a Loss, and the Truth is, discover'd more Signs of Sorrow than I really had; by which I perceiv'd that when we lament for the Death of any Person, we do not grieve for the Evil that hath befallen him; for if he go to Happiness what Ill hath happen'd to him; if to the other Place, he doth not deserve to be lamented since he hath but his Deserts; neither if he goes to Purgatory, in regard there is Hopes of his Release if he leave the Priest's Money enough to pray his Soul out of it; and if we want him not, we never bewail him. I finding he had so well provided for me at his Death, was not much afflicted in earnest, but yet I remain'd sad for some time, considering that a Man begins to Die, when his Father, Mother, Brother or Sister goes before him; they endeavour'd to comfort me with Spiritual Arguments, though indeed there are no Comforts so efficacious as *Philippus Hispaniarum Rex*, stamp'd on the dead Man's Coin which he leaves behind. The Gentleman perceiving me somewhat comforted took out the Will which he kept in his Cabinet, and passing over several Articles, he read the *Item* which concern'd me, and ran thus;

' And forasmuch as *Pedro Hernandez* my Son, is an Ignoramus, a Fool, and an Idiot, and thereby incapable of any Art, Trade, or Employment, whereby to maintain himself; I make greater Provision for him than for his other Two Brothers afore-mentioned, bequeathing him, by this my last Will and Testament, the One half of my Estate; and I do hereby require that One half thereof be settled upon him accordingly, for a perpetual Inheritance, to pass to the Idiots, Fools, and Nums, which shall descend from my said Son;

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and not to the Eldest by any means, if he be not a Fool, and incapable. In consideration that otherwise he hath a better Inheritance, more valuable and more durable, if he have Wisdom and Ingenuity to manage his Affairs, and gain an Estate; and whereas my Two Sons aforesaid, *Diego* and *Ferdinando* are so qualified, and able to live handsomely in the World, I desire and it is my Will, that they Content themselves with that proportion of my Goods I have allotted them.

This Sir, added he, I had a mind to read to you a little to allay your Sorrow, since hereby no less than Four Thousand Ducats a Year fall to your Share; for your Father, now in Bliss, settled his Estate with much Foresight and Prudence. Here you see me Heir to Four Thousand Ducats a Year only for being a Fool; you cannot imagine that this was an indiscreet Action of my Father, for how could a Wise Judge be guilty of Folly? What is more reasonable than to succour them who have not Wit to provide for themselves, and to leave Riches to those that are not capable of gaining any. To me I assure you this Clause seem'd the most just, prudent and righteous that ever was made. The Executor and my Uncle (who was the Priest that had been so courtly used, and from whom I ran away *incognito*, so that he knew not what was become of me, for which he was like to be punished) having instructed me how to manage my Estate, and receive my Rents, the Gentleman return'd to *Sevil*, and my Uncle to his Curacy at *Odon*.

Finding my self Master of Four Thousand Ducats a Year I sold all my Civil Law Books, and made a Vow never to follow any Employment relating to that Science while I liv'd. You must know my highest Ambition was always to be Honour'd and Valu'd by all sorts of People, which proceeded from the great Conceit I had of my self;

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I being of the Opinion that Estimation or Respect is founded upon Merit and Desert ; so that the Man who is generally esteem'd, is suppos'd to have Eminent Parts and Qualifications. Rich Men can never make Tryal of this, because a Wealthy Man may be regarded for his Estate only, and not for his Ingenuity or Natural Endowments. And so a Man in Authority has more respect paid him out of Fear than for Love. I encountred both these Dangers, and was much concern'd to think, that being a Judge or a Rich Man, I was still ignorant whether I had any true Friends, or that they only appear'd so, either upon the Account of my Power or my Fortune.

So I withdrew my Hand from all my Pretensions at Court, where great Men are deluded and sed with nothing but Adulations and Flatteries ; and contented my self with my own Estate, concealing it with much Artifice and Care, so that no Body thinks I am any more than a Poor Doctor ; in this manner I enjoy all the Priviledges of Poverty, and the Blessings of Riches, without tasting the Bitterness of either of them. If at any time I relieve the necessity of some Friend, it is entertain'd with more Kindness and Gratitude, because I am thought One that hath not much to spare. The least Gift seems more than it is, considering my mean Fortune. No Thieves nor Robbers molest me, since they hear I have little enough for my self. No Woman desires me for an Husband (tho' she may wish I was her Gallant) thinking I have not Estate enough to keep her a Coach, or purchase Fine Fur-below Scarfs, and the rest of the Habilliments wherewith Ladies now a days adorn themselves ; I keep Two Servants of my own Humour, and have Beautified my House with Pictures, and furnish'd it with such Books as agree with my Fancy and Inclination.

## C H A P. X.

*He falls in Love with a Young Lady, surprizes her Mother and she coming from Mass, and secretly detains his Mistress in his own House.*

**I**N the midst of this good Fortune I fell in Love with Donna Dorothea one Morning as she was walking like a Nymph on the banks of the River Manzanares near Madrid, to affront the Rays of the Sun with her more resplendant Beauty; her Hair hanging down at Length playing with the gentle Winds; I concluded she was going a Hunting being near the Park, and her Eyes verified it, for they made me their Prey; What need there be Swords and Muskets if fair Eyes can wound? What occasion for Artillery, when Beautiful Eyes can Conquer? Such were hers, and were doubly dangerous, because they kill'd at a small Expence of their Forces, her Glances being sufficient to slay any Man.

The Freshness of the Morning seem'd proper for Courtship, and for Lovers to make their amorous Addresses. I took Courage, and spoke to her in that engaging Style which the Babies in her Eyes prompted me to; I found methought somewhat like a welcome Reception in them which flatter'd my Hopes. I follow'd her, learn'd her House, the Quality of her Parents, and all other Circumstances but thought it not convenient to Court her publicly considering my Age and Profession. However Fortune presented an Opportunity whereby I might visit her by Night; for her Mother and she were intimately acquainted with a Lady a Kinswoman of mine, and by this means I had easy Access to them

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and made several Visits, so that at length what seem'd only Civility was really Love. Six Months are now expir'd since I patiently suffer'd her Disdains, and that with so much Caution, as not only my Rivals but even she her self is unacquainted how far the Empire of Love has extended its Power over me: I was fearful of running the Hazard that I had done with my late discreet chais'd Mistress; who, because I discover'd my Passion freely to her, withdrew the Favours and Kindness I receiv'd from her, and utterly cast me off and deserted me, and in the end expos'd her own Reputation and Honour. I therefore treated this Lady with Respect, but in such doubtful Terms that it had the Appearance either of Courtship and Compliment, or of sincere Affection.

One *Christmas* Night I came to her House, just as she and her Mother were going into a Coach; I seeing them ready to go forward, did not speak to them, but stept up into the Coach-box, and the Coachman getting up on One of the Horses as is usual, left me his Place, supposing I was Gentleman Usher to the Ladies; I laid my Ear to the Window of the Coach whilst we were going towards the *Carmelites* Church, and heard their Discourse.

" I wonder, says the Mother, why this foolish Doctor is not here to Night? I'll lay my Life he is playing the Ass elsewhere: What a tiresome Blockhead he is? Does he think he is able to oblige us by his Sophistical Arguments? We are Women not Philosophers: Indeed, cry'd *Danna* *Dorothea*, he is a Man of a pleasant Humour, I am confident he is now making *Christmas* Carols for some zealous Nun of his Acquaintance; for it is not possible but such a whimsical Coxcomb as he is, must needs be a *Devoto*, or Adorer of the Nuns; what a conceited Fool he is of his Whimsies? And imagines that every witty Repar-

" See

" tee which he makes is able to subdue a Heart;  
 " 'Tis a Wonder to me to think -that he who has  
 " so much Schollarship should be guilty of such  
 " Stupidity; and then how does he flabber his  
 " Chops at every word; Oh my Stars, deliver me  
 " from such a Phlegmatick Fellow; for my part I  
 " believe he expects that his Auditors should ap-  
 " plaud and say *Amen* to every Sentence which he  
 " utters; has this Man wherewith-to fill his Belly?  
 " Surely if he had any thing to keep his Teeth em-



" ploy'd he would never be so vain; 'tis meer  
 " Hunger that forces him to use these Impertinen-  
 " cies.

" Nay there is nothing in the World more di-  
 " verting, added *Donna Dorothea*, than hearing him  
 " pave my Head and Face with all kind of precious  
 " Stones. To other day I kept account of them,  
 " and found that he had reckoned up above an Hun-

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 “my Eyes; Cheeks, Lips and Hair; aye, says the  
 “Mother, I find he courts thee for a Wife, what  
 “greater Folly can there be than this? He is cer-  
 “tainly an egregious Idiot, or else he must needs  
 “know that the Licentiate *Campuzano* has fewer  
 “Words and more Deeds; come, come, that  
 “Man is tollerable, who though he be but a con-  
 “ceited Ass, yet he is Rich, and hath that which  
 “we want. In troth I resolve to tell him my  
 “Mind, since he hath declar’d his, and we’ll strike  
 “up the Match out of hand; these matters admit  
 “of no Delay; for there have been Men who in  
 “the Morning seem’d to be mad for Love, and yet  
 “after Dinner were more hard-hearted than *Pha-*  
 “*raoh*. To morrow he’ll come to wish us a merry  
 “*Christmas*, and in good earnest we’ll make it so,  
 “and strike up the Match; for you are now grown  
 “up to Womans Estate, and ’tis a Shame you  
 “should be any longer without a Husband.

By this time we came to the Church where they  
 went into Mattins; I staid at the Door in the Dark,  
 muff’d up in my Cloak, and in a brown Study,  
 being more stung with my Mistresses Scorns than I  
 was ever wounded with her Beauty, and therefore  
 vow’d to be Reveng’d, which I thus effected. When  
 they came out, the Coachman was absent, being  
 gone to an Hermitage hard by to wet his Throat  
 with a Glass of good Wine. I got up again into  
 his Place and brought the Coach for them to come  
 in; they entred and drew the Curtains by reason  
 of the sharpness of the Air. I drove on being full  
 of Rage and Resentment; and lean’d back to have  
 heard more Reflections on my Conduct, but they  
 spake not a Word, for they were both nodding.  
 Observing them in this Posture, instead of carry-  
 ing them to their own House, I brought them to  
 mine by the back door, which is on the right hand

in the Street, and has a Porch somewhat like theirs; besides their Drowsiness might somewhat excuse them; so they alighted, came in, and I presently sent away the Coach by one of my Servants with order to leave it at the Door of their House, and my other Servant having carried *Donna Dorothea* into a private Room handsomely furnish'd, the Mother was sent home in a Chair.

I must now acquaint you there was a certain Person called *Campuzano* aforementioned, a Licentiate, who smok'd his Face with Brimstone to make himself look pale, let his Beard grow, affected Severity, seldom laugh'd, contracted his Brows, nodding his Head now and then, and saying, *'tis well, he says somewhat*; For all which odd Qualities he was counted One of the Wisest Men in the World. This Person was a Pretender to *Donna Dorothea*, and visited her often; upon my surprising of her, as I have related, he was very much afflicted, and at length, by the perswasion of his Friends, came to inquire of me what was become of her; for having retir'd my self for some time in my own House, which I spent in perswading *Dorothea* to have compassion on me, and grant me her Love, I was reported to be an Astrologer and a Conjuror, who could discover wonderful things by my profound Studies, and Magical Arts. After I had a little terrified him and his Friends with some slight Tricks and Amusements, I desired him to acquaint me with the Affair wherein he required my Assistance.

" Worthy Sir, said he, my good Fortune hath  
 " guided me hither, to visit you under the greatest  
 " Exigency that ever Man was in, which I will  
 " declare to you at large, because I hope for some  
 " Relief from your profound Science. As I passed  
 " One Evening in a Coach thro' the Meadow of St.  
 " *Jeronimo* (now no more a pleasant Field, but a

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“ Wilderness, wherein Men, not Wild Beasts, are  
“ hunted to their own Destruction.) Here I became  
“ entangled in the Nets of delicate Hair, and was  
“ subjected to the Darts of piercing Eyes, I yield-  
“ ed my self up to the Smiles of a pretty Mouth,  
“ and was ensnar’d with blushing Cheeks. The  
“ Owner of these amorous Weapons was in ano-  
“ ther Coach; we brought them near together, and  
“ there was a tender yielding on my part, and an  
“ agreeable Allowance on hers, so that I became  
“ wholly her Slave; I inquired out her House, her  
“ Parents, and their Quality; and understanding  
“ she had a Brother equal to me in Age and Hu-  
“ mour, I soon acquainted my self with him, and by  
“ that means got into the House of *Donna Dorothea*, for  
“ so she’s call’d, *Happy in all Graces*; I courted her amo-  
“ rously, she answer’d me pleasantly, read my Ver-  
“ ses which I presented her, and applauded them;  
“ and receiv’d some of my Presents: All this pass’d  
“ calmly, her Parents taking little notice of it, be-  
“ cause I was her Brother’s Friend; supposing all  
“ proceeded from Common Kindness, and not from  
“ Love. Time, Opportunity, and Converse, made  
“ me every Day more Happy in her Favour, and  
“ my Hopes increas’d by the Kindness she show’d  
“ me; Finally this Lady being exceeding hand-  
“ some was admir’d by many Pretenders, because  
“ she had all the excellent Qualifications that can  
“ be requir’d in a Woman;— Nobility for the Gen-  
“ tlemen, Beauty for the Gallants, Virtue for the  
“ sober, and Discretion for the Wise; but I alone  
“ was the Happy Possessor of her Love; I storm’d  
“ the Fort of her Heart, and gain’d it, but not  
“ without the Loss of my own, if so pleasant an  
“ Action as giving Love for Love can be counted  
“ any Damage to the Parties concern’d. In this  
“ course of Life I pass’d the most pleasant Hours  
“ that I can ever hope for in this World. When

" Fortune envying my Excess of Contentment,  
 " stole her away from my Eyes, and my Hopes.  
 " 'Tis Three Days since this deplorable Accident  
 " happen'd, and in these Three Days I know not  
 " where I am, because I am ignorant what is be-  
 " come of her. I went on *Christmas* day to visit  
 " her, but found her not at home, I ask'd her  
 " Mother for her, she told me she was gone to see  
 " an Aunt of hers; I met her Father in the Street,  
 " who said that her Mother and she were gone to  
 " the Convent of *Alcala*; perceiving they were  
 " in different Tales I found out her Brother who  
 " was all in Confusion, and not suspecting that I  
 " was so much concern'd in the Business, related to  
 " me the truth of the Matter, and the greatest  
 " Misfortune that ever befel me since I had a Being.  
 " How great are the Mischiefs that attend Beauty;  
 " Divine *Dorothea* I wish thou hadst not been Born  
 " so Handsome, since Fortune out of Envy perse-  
 " cutes the most Beautiful; Alas my Destiny, I was  
 " always afraid that when thou hadst rais'd me so  
 " high I should have a Fatal Fall. Her Brother  
 " then gave me an Account that his Sister had been  
 " wanting since the Night before, (hoping to re-  
 " ceive Comfort from me, and that I would not  
 " aggravate his Grief.) That going in a Coach  
 " with her Mother to Church in returning home  
 " they were set down, without knowing by whom  
 " or where, at a House so like theirs, that the  
 " Night and Sleepiness deceiv'd them; they entred  
 " into it, and in an Instant the Coach disappear'd;  
 " they were lock'd up in Two several Rooms well  
 " furnish'd, which shew'd the Master to be Rich.  
 " They afterwards offer'd a Sedan to the Mother  
 " to carry her home, telling her that her Daughter  
 " was there already without any Hurt, and that she  
 " must be quiet since the Love of a great Man had  
 " attempted a thing that had not succeeded; but

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that *Danna Dorothea* was now very free from all Danger. The Mother believ'd them, and they bringing her into the Street where her House was, took their Leaves and vanish'd in an Instant; she finding her Daughter was not at home did not doubt but she was betray'd, and that she seem'd to call to her Father and Mother to avenge her on the Traytors, but they found no body upon whom to execute their Wrath. I was almost Dead upon hearing this deplorable News; I have now sought for her these Three Days with great Diligence, though unknown to her Parents, because I conceal from them the Kindness I have for her. This makes me distracted, and for this Cause I throw my self Learned Sir at your Feet, desiring your Compassion; and that you would acquaint me where she is, who was the Robber, and how she is dispos'd off; consult I beseech you with that Spirit of yours which knows the Thoughts of Men, that so I may know the end of my Sorrows.

I should not have had the Patience to hearken to this long doleful Story of the Licentiate, but that I thereby became jealous and angry, that such a ridiculous Fellow should have so much Pride as to pretend to be the Disposer of the Heart of *Donna Dorothea*; he had no sooner ended his Tale, but a little Image of *Cupid* that hung against the Wall sunk down and left a hollow Place through which might be seen a fine Room curiously adorn'd; you Mr. Licentiate said I, take courage, and you shall see with your Eyes what hath cost you so many Sighs; peep through this Hole, and observe what passeth. He did so, and saw *Donna Dorothea* in discourse with a handsome gentile Gallant. This said I is enough for the present, and the Curtain was drawn; you must know said I, this Lady is vanquish'd, and has dispos'd of her Heart already; it is

not

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not convenient to acquaint you with the Place where she is; but you may tell her Parents, that an Astrologer hath prognosticated that she will in a few days be brought back to their House; in the mean time let them make no Bustle, since they will suffer more in their Honour by it than any Body else; but I am sorry that such an understanding Man, as you are, should suffer yourself to be deceived by the Flatteries of a Woman; for I can assure you she never lov'd you, and would have married you only for your Wealth without any Affection to your Person. The Licentiate was struck speechless with Rage and Indignation at what he had heard and seen, and taking leave, with giving me many Thanks for the Injuries I had done him, went away blundering, stumbling, and affrighted at what had past.

*Don Felix* was much delighted to hear the Ingenuity of his Stories, and the newness of his Jest; and now the Holy Days were past, it seem'd very unjust to him that *Donna Dorothea* should be coop'd up in that Restraint which cost her Parents so many Cares and Tears; and finding the Doctor in a pleasant Humour, he ask'd him very seriously what he intended to do with her, and why he had so little Regard to her Quality as to endanger her Credit and Honour from which he gain'd so little Profit. If she receive any Prejudice in her Reputation, says *Cenodoxo*, I will save it up by marrying of her, if it be not her own Fault; for though it be a very hard Chapter, yet I could willingly thrust my self into Matrimony if I could perceive she had any real Inclination toward me. I must confess, reply'd *Don Felix*, that your handsome Face cannot much enamour her, since hers is somewhat better and hath less Beard; if any thing therefore moves her to love you, it will be some excellent thing that she has a mind to, and you are possess'd off; but you have

hitherto

hitherto been so great a Coxcomb, that having Four Thousand Ducats a Year, enough to make Four Thousand Maids fall in love with you, because it is such a charming Bait, yet you have conceal'd your good Fortune instead of proclaiming it to all the World; which when she hears of it will certainly make her fall in Love either with you or your Estate in good earnest.

Friend, quoth the Doctor, you say something now, this is indeed to the purpose, 'tis a new ingenious and discreet Thought; you have spoke an incomparable prudent Thing; the more I think of it the better I like it; I now yield my self conquered, and must confess I have been a Fool; but I am resolv'd from this Moment to declare my Mind fully to *Donna Dorothea*, and to muster up all the forcible Arguments and Advantages possible, that she may yield to my Desires; yet because this Yoak of Marriage is wont to endure all ones Life, I would willingly build upon sure Grounds, and I think it absolutely necessary to examine my Mistress beforehand, and to discover whether she is not infected with the Follies of *Madrid*; for I heard, from I know not what Philosopher, that the Countrey in which we are Born hath an Influence upon us; so that Mountainous rough Places breed rough ill-natur'd Persons; and the smooth and pleasant those that are mild and courteous; and *Madrid* being a plain, smooth Countrey, gives some Encouragement to me that she is of an easy, complying Temper. This I will allow you to do with all my Heart, says *Don Felix*, and so leaving the Doctor somewhat reformed from his Heretical Opinions, he promis'd him his Assistance in performing this Enterprize.

## C H A P. XI.

*He makes a strange Tryal of the Constancy of his Mistriss, but proves very Unsuccessful in the Conclusion.*

**D**ON Felix having gain'd ground on the Doctor by his Arguments resolv'd to pursue the Affair; and Doctor Cenudo being still very confus'd in his Thoughts and Resolutions, confesses to him he was so wholly possess'd with Love that he had no Place for Reason, desiring him who was free from that Passion, to give him his Judgment freely in the Matter, and that he resolv'd to be as pliable as Wax to his Advice. Don Felix making use of the Liberty that was given him; there is but one Tryal, Doctor, to be made, said he, of Donna Dorothea which may occasion you any Trouble, and that is to know whether she be of a constant, or of a fickle Temper, to which end we will use this Stratagem; she already believes that she is in some Nobleman's House; you may feign your self to be the German Ambassador, and invite all your Friends to a splendid Dinner, cloath'd like Ambassadors of several Nations, as of England, France, Savoy, Venice, Turkey, and Persia; let it be in a Room where she may hear and observe all that passes, and believe it is real; this being done let me alone to manage her, and you will soon see the effect of it.

The Doctor embrac'd him for this Contrivance, and approv'd of it so well that he cry'd, *By the Life of the Emperor this is what I could have wish'd for*; giving him a Charge to prosecute it instantly, and invite the Guests, and likewise to provide some Stage-Players to come in their Habits, for carrying on the Intrigue; Don Felix did so, and the next day

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Eight jolly Blades met together in a Room richly furnish'd, where they all sat down at the Table in great State to an excellent Banquet, their Disguises becoming them admirable well. *Donna Dorothea* stood in an inner Chamber at Bo-peep, accompanied with *Don Felix*, the counterfeited Steward of the pretended German Ambassador; she was astonish'd and almost distracted to see her self in that ravish Condition; which *Don Felix* perceiving, 'Tis now high time, Madam, said he, that you should be acquainted with what you are to expect. *Arnaldo Boni*, my Lord Ambassador of Germany, fell passionately in love with your Beauty, as he happened to have a Sight of you once at the *Prado*, where you were slaying the Gallants with the Glances of your piercing Eyes; and the Majesty of his Character not permitting him to wait on you at your House, and court you pursuant to his violent Passion, he resolv'd with the Assistance of his Friends and Servants to surprize you, and carry you off; which you know was too well Perform'd, it having cost you many a Sigh and Tear; yet he abhor'd to offer any Force to your Will, it being below great Princes to use any Compellation in Love; he is only ambitious that you should comply with his Desires, and amongst other Pledges of his Affection, he freely bestows upon you all the Noble Furniture of this House, and will engage to make you so wealthy that you shall be coveted in Marriage by so many Gallants, and may choose him for a Husband for whom you have the greatest Inclination; and you are sensible that for gaining this nothing will be miss'd.

At this Discourse *Dorothea's* Face was covered with blushes, so that she knew not what Reply to make; but being a little recover'd; with many Arguments, mix'd with Sighs and Tears (which I forbear to

relate, for fear of making my Reader Melancholly she discovered the Nobleness of her Spirit, and the Greatness of her Courage, telling him, That the Treasures of all Germany were not a sufficient Re-  
 compence for the loss of her Chastity; Don Felix seem'd very angry, and assur'd her that her Refusal would be of very ill Consequence; but she continued immoveable, and would not give the least Encouragement to his Proposal. He then left her with such Gestures as threatned her with ill Usage for this disdainful Repulse; and coming to the Ambassador of Germany whisper'd something in his Ear, which the rest of them observing desir'd to be acquainted with; particularly the Ambassador of the Grand Signor, who holding a large Cup of Wine in his Hand, *I swear*, said he, *by Mahomet, not to drink this Health till I know the Cause that has compos'd your Excellency.* The Doctor, or Ambassador (sitting hid behind a large pair of Spectacles, which cover'd his whole Face, and yet there remain'd enough to have serv'd his Neighbour) gave such a Thump upon the Table, as threw all upon it to the Ground, and counterfeiting a desperate Passion, cry'd out aloud; *Bring her hither presently, for I will have her Beheaded.*

Don Felix went instantly like an Executioner, to fetch down the Lady, which he soon did, Fear having almost struck her Dead; so that she could only ask whether the Ambassador was a Christian or not; and then was brought before the Tribunal, just at the time when the German Ambassador was in a Rage, tearing to pieces a Spick and Span new flaxen Beard which cost him a Crown; when Donna Dorothea saw him so furious, she verily imagin'd the Knife was already at her Throat; and she did not think much amiss, for the German snatching up a Knife which he found among the Fragments of the ruin'd Table, went toward her like an enraged

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on; but the Ambassador of *France*, who was an handsome Man, and an admirer of Ladies, withheld his Arm, and for that time suspended her being sacrific'd; they then all cry'd out, *What's the meaning of this Uproar and Disturbance before so many illustrious Persons*; at this Reproof the *German* Ambassador became a little calmer, and intreating their attention gave the following Account of the Affair.

"May it please your Excellencies, I by ill Fortune happened to fall in love with this mean pitiful Wench, I stole her, and offered her the Richest Jewels which I brought with me from *Germany*, to answer my Passion; but she is so stupid and foolish as to say, that my Nation hath not a Jewel which can deserve her Compliance; this is it that distracts me, and puts me out of my Senses; let then the most prudent and temperate among you all, judge what Punishment she deserves, and consider calmly of what pernicious Consequence it would be, if a vain inconsiderate Woman should be so injurious to an Ambassador, and to insist with so much Impudence upon her Chastity. The *German* Ambassador had scarce utter'd this, when they seem'd to signify by their odd Gestures and mysterious Signs, that the Crime was notorious, and worthy of exemplary Punishment. After a little Pause, the *Persian* Ambassador, who pretended to be an Eunuch, declar'd, that it was of great Importance for the publick good of all Nations, that such a Woman should be cut in Limb from Limb, for being so insolent, and such a Rebel to Love; and that every one of the Ambassadors should carry home a piece with him to terrify other Women in his own Country thereof; but another prudently alledg'd, that there was no Occasion for it, since he suppos'd there were more Women in the World of her Humour.

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The *English* Ambassador, a Person of a mild, ingenious Temper gave his Opinion, that instead of Death her Statue ought to be set up of shining Brass in Memory of so much Virtue, that a Woman should be found, who was such a Contemner of Money. He of *Venice* was for making her a Nun, and drawing out of the Cloyster the first Nun that should come to hand in her stead, who without doubt would not be so obstinate and contumacious.

In such hazard was the Life of this disdainful Lady; and at length after a warm Debate it was carried by the Majority of Votes, that she should be put to Death, since tearing her piece-meal, and putting her into a Nunnery were equal Punishments, one being as bad as the other. The Sentence being thus decreed, *Don Felix* hurried her away more dead than alive for Fear; whilst they were preparing for her Execution, the Ambassador of *Germany* made the following Oration to the illustrious Congress or Assembly.

“ Most worthy, faithful Friends, I have courted  
 “ this Lady (the Glory of the Age she lives in)  
 “ with a perfect Love, I have acquainted her there  
 “ with, and confirm’d it with the same Assurances  
 “ that a Person of my Quality ought to do;  
 “ yet neither Time, nor my kind Treatment have  
 “ induc’d her to favour my Address, her Obstinacy  
 “ being as hard as Brass; therefore since neither  
 “ Intreaties nor Protestations avail’d any thing,  
 “ proceeded to Threats and Violence; however I  
 “ did but flatter my Imagination to suppose that  
 “ Fear should have more Influence upon her than  
 “ Love; you have now been Witnesses of her Constancy,  
 “ and more than Humane Courage; she  
 “ hath past such a Tryal as might be said to equal  
 “ if not exceed that of *Lucretia* or *Porcia*; But tis  
 “ my Misfortune, that I never was in love with any  
 “ Woman, though of ever so mean a Condition.”



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and altogether unacquainted with Courtship, but she became colder than Ice to me. An Hundred times I have been resolving to compass my Desires by marrying, which though it be a desperate Remedy, I shall do but as a Patient, who suffers his Arm to be cut off to save his Life. But her mean Fortune contradicts this Determination; she's a Poor Woman, a Woman of contemptible Quality, yet this is not to be considered if she be discreet, if she be beautiful, constant and chaste, above all celebrated in History. He who thinks that Riches, and the Ornament of the Soul are to be found in One and the same Person, little knows the Freaks and Irregularities of Fortune; since she seldom bestows her Favours upon those that best deserve them. Now he that has but a Grain of Sense must acknowledge, that since Matters are thus, I have made

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“ a Happy Choice of the chief and most sovereign  
 “ Goods ; for this reason I assembled you together ;  
 “ for this cause I feign’d my self in such a Rage as  
 “ astonish’d you. The boasting of my Wealth,  
 “ nor the shew of my Cruelty could not shake  
 “ her firm and undaunted Breast ; What greater  
 “ Testimony can there be of her Virtue, and the  
 “ Happiness of my Election ? give me then your  
 “ Opinions freely ; for though you may think I am  
 “ too much bias’d, and sway’d by my own Appe-  
 “ petite, I do assure you I am willing to submit  
 “ to better Judgments, and more mature Coun-  
 “ sels.

They all applauded the Doctor’s Plot with Signs  
 of Admiration ; *Is this the Fool ?* cries One ; *How*  
*few such ingenious Men have we in the World,* says  
 another ! *Affuredly,* adds a Third, *he has a notable*  
*Head-piece of his own.* Thus was his Doctorship  
 commended by all the Monarchies of the Universe ;  
 who, after Consultation what was fittest to be done  
 in the Business, unanimously concluded, That it  
 was convenient to undeceive the afflicted Bridè, and  
 that calling together the Kindred and Friends of  
 both Parties, the Match should be made up ; after  
 this the Ambassadors took their Leaves, and the  
 Doctor remain’d very well pleas’d and contented  
 with their Resolution.

The next Morning his Affections carry’d him to  
 the Lodgings of *Dorothea*, whom he found much  
 disordred and distressed ; our Gallant being now  
 without any Disguise either on his Face or Body,  
 saluted her as a new com’d Servant, betwixt a fawn-  
 ing and a Timorous Air : *Dorothea* could not at  
 first call him to mind, her late Terrors had so dis-  
 tracted her ; but hearing his Voice, she sigh’d and  
 lamented her self, and as soon as she could speak ;  
*Perhaps,* says she, *thou art the Officer that these Bar-*  
*barians have appointed to take away my Life ? Pray*

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come near, for I perceive already that you seem joyful to see the Revenge of my Modesty and Reservedness put into your Hands; but I beseech you hear me One Word, before you give the Fatal Stroke, not to ask for Mercy, but to vindicate my Reputation. The Doctor was going to assure her that he came with a different Purpose, but *Dorothea's* Imagination was so prepossessed with Dread, that falling on her Knees, she intreated him with great Tenderness to suffer her to speak a few Words.

“Do not rejoice, said she, that you have an Opportunity to revenge your self, in regard I have done you no Injury; you have courted me some few Weeks, and pretend I have wrong’d you, because I have made no Return to your Desires. This is an unjust Complaint, for you have attempted me either for Licentious or Honourable Ends; if for the first, no Reward is due, it deserves no Favour, for ’tis a manifest Injury, since it conceals Villany under the Covert of Flattery. To the Second all Complaisance is due in a modest Way; and this I have complied with; had I been too easy and fond, after you thought me so reserv’d, you would have undervalu’d my Love, and have had a low Esteem of what you so much extol’d. You will say there can be no Love without Hopes, and yet I did not altogether deprive you of them, but only delay’d till I found my self to have a greater Inclination to change my Condition, when I have at present; and if I must Die for this, it is not my Crime, but my Misfortune, and I shall suffer innocently, and with the greatest Injustice.

At these Words, and the Tears that accompanied them, the Gallant was disarm’d, and comforting *Dorothea*, assur’d her he came not to take away her Life, but give his Soul to her. She comforted a little more to her self, although much sur-

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priz'd, was very inquisitive to know the meaning of all the foregoing Passages ; how he camethither, and what Business he had with her ; he with a few obliging Expressions acquainted her, that he was the Person who had carried her away, and kept her conceal'd so long to her great Trouble and Affrightment ; intimating now and then in his Discourse to sweeten his Fault, that it was her want of Love to him which occasion'd it. He then gave her an Account of all his Contrivances, the Secret of his Riches, and of his being Master of Four Thousand Crowns a Year, and his Reasons for concealing the same ; this he repeated very often, as if every Crown had been a Lawyer to plead his Cause ; expecting that his Mistress would have embrac'd him with open Arms, and approaching nearer prepar'd to recieve her ; but the Young Lady, with a great deal of Courage, gave him so rude a Blow upon



the Breast, that he fell backward flat on the Ground, his Head now aking as well as his Heart ; recover-

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ing himself after a while, and getting upon his Feet, *Dorothea* thus discours'd him;

" If Wills and Inclinations could be purchas'd  
" with Money as other Goods are, possibly mine  
" would run the hazard of being procur'd by your  
" Riches, of which you boast so much; but the  
" deliciousness of having a great Estate, whereby  
" to be possess'd of all that this World reckons Happiness, has no such Power over me; you, Sir, can pretend to no Merit whereby to gain my Will, or procure my Love; for it is an unaccountable method of shewing your Love and Affection to me, to endanger the loss of my Reputation, threaten me with Violence, and bring me to the point of Death; this savours more of Abhorrency than of Love; I will never yield up my self to a Man, who assists himself with Power and Deceit to conquer Modesty and Chastity; and I would have you know, that I esteem my self Happier without the Estate which you so much glory in, than if I was possess'd of it; for I shall live more happily with One that is my Equal, than to be a Slave to your Humours because of your Riches; since then you have acted in this Affair like an impudent Clown, and a treacherous Villain, you shall pine and Dye without Hopes for any Relief that I will ever afford you.

She had gone on, the Sense of seeing her self thus abus'd and affronted had so much transport'd her, had she not been interrupted by the Doctor: " If you imagine, Madam, said he, that there can be any durable Love without Inclination, and mutual Correspondence, you are much mistaken; never fear Lady, never fear, that you shall be belov'd to Excess by him, whom you so excessively abhor; I must needs confess my obstinate persisting herein hath done me but an

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“ ill Office, and branded me for a Fool, in having  
 “ a Kindness for One who never car’d for me;  
 “ whilst I had any hopes, I took all the Measures that  
 “ I thought proper for obtaining my Desires; but  
 “ since I now find that instead of Roses I am like to  
 “ obtain nothing but Thistles, do not suppose that  
 “ I am so insensible as not to withdraw my Affect-  
 “ ions; however you may be certain, that in all  
 “ this you have not run any Hazard in your Repu-  
 “ tation, since my Love hath hitherto so carefully  
 “ secur’d it. Return then to your own House,  
 “ and suppose your self Mistress of that which  
 “ you leave, without any other Obligation than  
 “ that you have entred into it, and have Power to  
 “ command it.

6 He had no sooner ended his Farewell Compli-  
 ment, when calling Two of his Servants, and whis-  
 pering privately to *Don Felix* who came with them,  
 he took his last Leave of *Donna Dorothea*, not with-  
 out the Admiration of those that beheld it; and  
 it being Night, they carried her, or rather she  
 walk’d home, waited on by *Don Felix*, and other  
 Servants, who as they were instructed by the crafty  
 Gallant parted with her at the Porch of her own  
 House; where we will also leave her, going in and  
 crying for Joy, with her Father, Mother, and Kin-  
 dred.

CHAP.

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C H A P. XII.

*He is made a Wise Man by his Friends and Acquaintance, and swears Obedience to the Laws of Discretion.*

ONE Evening all the Doctor's Acquaintance met together at his House to make merry, and have a Game at a *Spanish Play* call'd *El Hombre*, or the Man; some plaid, others look'd on, and the Doctor happen'd to be *El Hombre*, as having the highest Card; one amongst the rest, who was a pretender to Wit, and delighted more to quibble and talk than to mind the Play, being unwilling to lose the Opportunity of shewing his rare Qualifications, said, "There is a great deal of Reason Sir that you should be *El Hombre*, or the Man, since the Ingenuity you have lately shewn, justly entitles you to it. The rest took occasion to second him in commending *Cenudo* for some time, and at length they all concluded that the late Passage about his Mistress was the most discreet Action that had ever been perform'd. "'Tis well, said the Doctor, (with a great deal of Gravity) that you joke upon me for my Discretion, who have been so cry'd up for a Fool; 'tis much that you don't reckon it an inconsiderate thing, or attribute it to the Loss of my Beloved; for this too is the Property of Fools. This Discourse produc'd an Uproar among them; and they affirm'd with some Oaths; that he was as Wise a Man as any that walk'd in the *Prado*; One of them, a pleasant witty Fellow cry'd, This Scruple of the Doctors about his Wit is not to be disregarded; and since he is jealous of his Reputation, I find no other Remedy against it than to have him take the Degree of a

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Wise Man, especially since we have in our Company Discreet Doctors, Poets, Criticks, Flatterers and Wits, so that nothing is wanting to perform the same.

I accept of this Favour with all my Heart, said the Doctor, with a merry Countenance, because it will put an end to this dangerous Play ; for 'tis a terrible thing for any body to be *El Hombre*, and in Conclusion will cost him some Money ; Well, says another, you must not suppose that this matter is done of a sudden, for I have brought with me the Laws you must observe to be counted Wise. It seems then, reply'd the Doctor, you did not come to make Tryal whether I am a Wise Man or no, but to dub me one as they dub a Knight ; and indeed this is the most certain and easy Way ; for I assure you there are few in the World who merit to be call'd Wise Men ; but 'tis like making a Knight, wherein the famous Exploits of him and his Ancestors are not consider'd, but he is instructed what to do in compliance with his Order of Knighthood ; so I shall likewise be highly honour'd with your declaring me a Wise Man since you find some Glimmerings that I may be so.

Then one of the briskest in the Company taking a Book call'd *Lope de Vega's Plays*, made him kneel down, and giving him Three Blows on the Forehead therewith, added, *Doctor Cenudo wilt thou be a Wise Man ?* He answer'd, *I will : Heaven make thee One*, said the Other, *for I cannot*. All applauded the Ceremony, and the President commanded every Man to sit down in his Order and hear the Constitutions of Wit and Discretion Read, as follows.

" We Discretion, Queen of the Universe, To  
" you Wise Men of the first, and Novices of the  
" lowest Rank, Greeting ; Know ye that we having  
" reciev'd Information of the Follies and Absur-

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“dities, which those of you that are Lovers of  
“pleasant Conversation daily commit, by invent-  
“ing new ways of speaking and acting, from  
“whence much Damage is occasion’d to Humane  
“Wit and Learning; for the Redress of these Dis-  
“orders, we ordain and establish the following  
“Laws and Constitutions, which you are to take  
“notice of, and obey under Pain of our high Dis-  
“pleasure.

I. In the first Place, because we find by Experi-  
ence, that an ill Tongue, and a busy Censurer of  
other Peoples Actions is guilty of having an ill In-  
tention, we ordain that such Persons shall not rec-  
kon themselves Discreet, but are arrant Fools;  
because without suspicion of Malice many more E-  
normities may be charg’d upon such Back-biters.  
It being the Design of these perverse Creatures to  
excuse their own Crimes by proclaiming those of  
others.

II. That no Man, who is inclin’d to Marry or  
is in Love, shall reckon himself Wise, during  
the Time that his amorous Fits continue; upon  
pain of being accounted a Clown, a Coxcomb, and  
a Flatterer.

III. That no Wise Man keep in his House, *The*  
*Academy of Complements*, *Secretary in Fashion*, or any  
Forms of Letters, nor write according to the dull,  
vulgar Stile, least he be thought stupid, and to  
know no better.

IV. Being inform’d That in Visits made by Young  
Gentlemen to Ladies, many notorious Absurdities  
are committed in unnecessary Questions, we com-  
mand that it shall not be lawful to ask any hand-  
some Woman, or that thinks her self so, how she  
does, because it is an Intimation that we think she  
does not look well.

V. That Two or more Visitants coming in at sever-  
al times, they that came first be obliged to go a-

way first, on Pain of being esteemed Clowns for Three Years if they do not conform thereto.

VI. That it being the *Spanish* Fashion for a Man to boast that he is of a Melancholy Constitution, thereby to make the World believe that he is very Wise; we ordain that he should not be reckon'd so, unless he be likewise Hollow-Ey'd, Beetle-Brow'd, Thin-Jaw'd; or shall have little or no Money in his Pocket, for such have Liberty not only to be Melancholy, but to brag of it too.

VII. That none shew respect to One that sneezes, since grave Physicians tell us that sneezing is an Expulsion of humid Excrements, and we may as well make the same Compliment after any other Evacuation of the Body.

VIII. That no Man pretend to use Scraps of *Latin*, Thrums of Poetry, or Raptures of Rhetorick in his Discourse, but to talk Christian-like, as his Conscience shall dictate, and as his Fore-fathers, who are dead and gone taught him.

IX. That he believe nothing that shall be told him, unless it be a Mystery of Faith; however we give him leave that out of Complaisance he may pretend to believe all he hears.

X. That he change his Cloaths as the Weather alters, without considering the time of the Year, because every hot day is really Summer, and every cold Day Winter.

XI. That he wear no right Diamonds, Emeralds, or other Jewels, when he can have them of Glass and Pebbles; in regard their Lustre is the same, and they are much cheaper.

XII. We charge the Consciences of formal Courtiers, that they cool not their Wine at *Christmas*, who when their Bottles are frozen, and their Wine as cold as Ice, yet cool it more.

XIII. That if in making a Visit to a Person of Quality, a Gentleman should have a Letter brought

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him, he shall have the Liberty to open and read it immediately, without being counted unmannerly, because he may be in pain to know the Contents of it.

XIV. That no discreet Person ask another what he had for Dinner, or Supper, or tell what he hath eaten, such Discourses favouring of Gluttony.

XV. That they talk not to one another of new fashion'd Cloaths or Dresses, since this is reserv'd to Young Ladies.

XVI. That Wise Men ought to disregard Old Superstitious Fables, Dreams and Omens, upon pain of being counted egregious Fools.

XVII. That a Wise Man do not believe there is any Virtue in Stones, unless they be Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, &c. Or those that are made use of to knock out the Brains of an Enemy. Or that there is any Virtue in Herbs but such as the Apothecarys use, since they have the Virtue to make them Rich.

XVIII. Let none boast of the Nobility of their Family, nor reckon up their Pedigree, since they often appear to be Upstarts, and to be descended originally from the meanest of the People.

XIX. And because some count it an Elegance and an Ornament to their Discourse, to throw out an Oath, a Curse, or to Damn themselves as much as in them lyes, We declare them to be Blasphemous Fools, and not fit to be entertain'd in any Civil Society.

XX. That no Man speak ill of Women although they deserve it, since it is but odd Merchandize, and will hardly go off, unless it be prais'd and commended.

XXI. That he seek not to be prefer'd to any publick Office without Favour; nor court a Lady without Money.

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These and many other Constitutions, which are omitted, as peculiar to the *Spanish Nation*, the new made Wise Man promis'd Obedience to, and began to appear one amongst his Friends that Night, giving them a Splendid Treat, his Jestis having as good a Relish as his Dishes, which I shall not mention lest I should provoke my Readers Appetite. 'Tis enough that the Supper did satisfy a Legion of Poets; which is a sufficient Commendation; and so concluded this merry Bout, and Doctor *Cenudo* ceas'd to be a Fool, and began to act the part of a Wise Man. Would you then have an Hundred Men vouch for your Wisdom, give them a good Supper, and though you are a meer Pack-Horse they'll extol your Wit, if you are loaded with Turkeys and Partridges.

C H A P. XIII.

*Doctor Cenudo is apprehended by the Malice of his Enemies, and committed to Prison for a Conjuror. But at length is Honourably acquitted.*

**D**orothea with blushing Cheeks told the whole Story of her being surpriz'd, and Detention to her Parents, and had no great Trouble to make 'em believe her, for as being part of their Soul they understood her Temper and from thence were assur'd there was no forcing of her Will; but the World was not so easily satisfied, who knew how many Nights she had been lamented at her Father's House, and entertain'd at another Man's; Fame had dispers'd the News all over the Town, and at length the Licentiate *Campuzano* heard it, and who

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it is a Wonder was not first acquainted with it, since he was turn'd all to Ears from the time he had been made such an Ass of. Fools torment themselves by being confident, and gain nothing by it. Confidence made our Arrogant *Andalusian* conjecture that the Beautiful *Dorothea* was his own, and was so possess'd with that Fancy, that the Day in which he had notice the Lady was stoln away, he undertook to search for her upon his own Account, imagining she was ravish'd from him: Confident Fool; was it not better to suppose she was not thine, as really she was not? Whereby in case of any Damage, or Injury done to her, or Contempt put upon her, thou wouldst not have had so great a Share in her Sufferings, nor wouldst have thought they had taken her out of thy Bed, as it were, from thee. And you Gentlemen that solicit for Places at Court, do not sue for them as *Campuzano* did for *Dorothea*, that so you may not be grieved if you are disappointed; but arm your selves before-hand with Patience, and consider that they are not yet yours, and that if they be given to others they were not taken from you.

*Campuzano* was now become a Lyon for Courage in the cause of *Donna Dorothea*, and percieving that he wanted Paws to prey withal he contented himself with roaring, tho' sore against his Will; but going in a great Rage to the *Teniente* or Deputy Judge he confidently affirms that Doctor *Cenudo* was a Conjuror, a Sorcerer, and a Magician; That he kept a Familiar Spirit, and daily committed a Thousand Violencies by Virtue of his Witch-crafts; that he ravish'd Virgins, made himself Master of other Mens Wealth, and perform'd other Miracles which his Malice dictated to him. The Judge believ'd all he said, and the same Night went out with a Guard of Serjeants and other Officers to apprehend the Doctor, the Licentiate accompany-

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ing him. They beset his House on all Sides, and using the Name of *Felix*, by *Campuzano's* Advice, the Door was soon opened, and some staying below, the *Teniente* or Judge went up to the Doctor's Bedside, where he found him fast asleep, and fearing if he should wake, he would call some cursed Spirit to his Assistance, commanded Four of the Bayliffs to bind him Hand and Foot, which they soon effected.

At the Noise they made, the miserable Doctor awak'd, and finding himself seiz'd and shackl'd, and his Chamber full of Halberds, being extremely amaz'd he recommended himself to all the Saints he could think of with great Devotion. The Judge being much afraid that he was Conjuring and muttering Charms, fancied himself already in the Hobgoblins Clutches; therefore putting a Gag into the Prisoner's Mouth to prevent farther Danger, he sent him to Jail, with a Squadron of lusty Fellows to guard him, charging them to put him into safe Custody in the Dungeon; the *Teniente* staying with an Attorney, to find out the Magical Instruments of Mischief and Witchcraft.

He sent several of his Attendants to search over all the House, while he continued with the Licentiate and the rest of his Train above; who casting their Eyes on a Cabinet curiously wrought which stood at the Doctor's Beds-head, broke it open, suspecting to find some infernal Charms in it. The *Teniente* examin'd the Drawers, and ask'd *Campuzano* if he knew what Conjurations were, who told him, they were certain Prayers or Invocations in Rhimes, and that in a Commission wherein he was concern'd, for discovering a Company of Witches, he had attain'd much Knowledge of those cursed Practices. Looking into One of the Drawers they found some Papers, of which the Licentiate reading some Lines; cry'd out, *These are*

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Rhimes Sir, as I live we have found out the Conjurations. The Judge who knew as little of Conjurations as Rhimes was in great hopes the Rhimes would prove Conjurations, that so he might make a Holy-day for the Mob in the Market Place to see Doctor Cenudo hang'd; after he had cross'd himself several times, said some devout Orisons, and re-nounc'd any implicate Contract with Signior Diabol, which possibly these Charms might contain in them, and declar'd with many Asseverations, that he did not design to do Mischief to any one, nor to raise any evil Spirit, nor make the foul Fiend take any visible Shape or Converse with him; he began to read the pretended Conjurati<sup>o</sup>n, which ran thus:

*Look down thou Faithless Mother of Love and see  
The humble Suppliant of thy Majesty,  
And though I with no Offerings do appear,  
Yet come full charg'd with Sorrow, Grief and Fear, &c.*

Does not your Worship observe how the Villain adores *Venus* the Mother of Love, says the Licentiate. The *Teniente* was amaz'd, and having little Skill in Conjurations, he believ'd what e'er the Simplicity and Ignorance of *Campuzano* put into his Head. He reads on,

*Lay Cynthia thy deceitful Pencils by,  
Which only feign to ease my Misery.  
They Gentle make what's Cruel, Fierce and Wild;  
And make that Wild which Gentle is and Mild.*

This Passage is somewhat dark, says the Licentiate, and had I not studied Humane Learning I my self should never have unfolded the Mystery of it; take notice, Signior *Teniente*, of this Conjurati<sup>o</sup>n he makes to the Moon; How! to the Moon re-  
olves

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plies the Judge, I find no such thing, neither is there a Word here, whereby it may be conjectur'd; the Word *Cynthia*, answers *Campuzano*, your Worship must know, signifies the Moon or *Diana*, whom the Heathens ador'd by the name of *Cynthia*, for being Born in the Mountain *Cynthus*; and he now makes a Prayer to her as the Ancient Sorcerers did, that she would come down and moisten and give Virtue to the Herbs with which they use to compound their Magical Poysons. At this Instant came up the Ministers of Wrath who had been searching the House, more to plunder it of any thing they could lay their hands on, than to make any Discovery of what the Doctor was accus'd of. They brought in a great number of Cloaths for Devils, Foxes-Tails, Wolves Heads, Sculla, Masks, and other such Trumpery, which the Doctor, who I tell you plainly was no Conjurer, but a Man of a pleasant Humour, delighted to divert himself with upon Occasion.

His Friend *Don Felix* hearing of the Tribulation he was in, aplyed himself to the Judge, acquainting him that the whole Charge against the Doctor was frivolous; assuring him that he was an ignorant Fool, and an Idiot, and as such a one had spent his Life, his Time, and Estate, in Books, Pictures, Devils Cloaths, and such idle Fooleries, having a particuler Temper of his own, and retiring from the Converse, and common Conversation with Mankind. This being prov'd by a Cloud of Witnesses, the *Teniente* was very well satisfied with the Fancy of his odd Accoutrements, and that the Papers found in his Closet were no Conjurations nor Imprecations, but Ballads and Sonnets written by himself, which made his Folly still more apparent; he therefore discharg'd him from his Confinement, and condemn'd *Campuzano* to pay a considerable Fine for scandalizing him. So that after

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Three Days, Doctor Cenudo (who had been like one under Water all that time) was again visible and free'd from his Accusation by the Vigilance of his Friend Don Felix, who coming to visit him embrac'd him with much Affection, and related to him the welcome Tydings of his Deliverance. He much wondred to hear it, not but that his own Innocence secur'd him from Danger, but that the Negotiation was so short.

Don Felix satisfied all his Doubts, not without some Laughter, relating to him all the Passages of the Process, which having heard, *Well*, says the Doctor, *I durst to have sworn that such good Fortune would attend me for being a Fool*; he then recall'd all the Passages of his Life past, and declar'd that all the Prosperities and good Successes he ever had, were occasion'd by his Follies, and firmly resolv'd to be guilty of many that he might continue to be Happy. He then took his leave of his Friends who entertain'd him in Prison, and with Joy to see himself free came to visit me at my Lodging, and to rejoice in his Liberty: Again repeating it to me as a Secret, that all his Felicities proceeded from his being a Fool, and that he was never unfortunate but when he err'd and stray'd into the by-paths of Wisdom, which he would carefully avoid for the future; having made a Vow to Folly that if he escap'd the late Misfortune he would profess himself a Fool all the Remainder of his Days; which I understand he perform'd, and slipt out of the World without any Trouble. Take Courage then Reader, and observe his Follies; possibly they may have the Virtue to make him Happy that hears them, as well as he that commits them.

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### C H A P. XIII.

*He is apprehended by the Malice of his Enemies, and committed to Prison for a Conjuror; but at length is Honourably acquitted.* 156

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